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# THE TIMES

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**AN OLD MAN'S OBSESSION**  
Richard Cork on Degas at the National Gallery, P33



**THE KING OF TRASH**  
Antoine de Caunes tries on a new crown PAGE 15



**ROAD RAGE**  
The killer at the wheel PAGES 5,14

**LIBBY PURVES**  
Children who grow up as outdoor illiterates PAGE 16



**PLAY THE £25,000 GAME**  
Another chance to enter PAGES 22,23

Loans to be repaid over 20 years

## Labour aims to levy tax on graduates

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

GRADUATES would have to pay back at least £12,000 for the cost of their university education over 20 years under a Labour government, it will be announced today.

The scheme, which marks the end of the party's commitment to free higher education, would replace the existing hybrid system of grants, loans and parental help to maintain students at university. Tuition would remain free.

Students would have to pay considerably more than they do now, but repayments which would be made through national insurance contributions and increase in line with salaries - would be spread over a much longer period.

Both main parties have now accepted that the present system cannot continue, although the Conservatives will not put forward detailed proposals until Sir Ron Dearing reports on higher education funding after the general election.

Labour's proposals, contained in a paper called *Lifelong Learning*, are being published after years of bitter infighting within the Labour Party over whether students should contribute to the costs of university education. Two years ago Jeff Rooker, a former higher education spokesman, was sacked from the frontbench after drawing up a paper supporting student charges.

But now the move is expected to receive broad support as the only way to fund the surge in higher education - the number of students has almost doubled in the past eight years. And while Tony Blair has been wary about the electoral consequences of revamping the student loans scheme, he will argue that it is one of the "hard choices" new Labour has to make.

David Blunkett, the Shadow

Education Secretary who will unveil the programme today, argues that it will allow more pupils from poorer and middle-income backgrounds to go on to higher education, because they will no longer be as reliant on parental contributions. At the moment 60 per cent of the upper and middle social classes go to university although they represent only 25 per cent of the population; only 10 per cent of the lowest social groupings do so.

The proposals are also designed to end the present situation where thousands of students get into debt.

At present, undergraduates may borrow up to £1,400 a year (£1,600 in London) from the student loan organisation, which they repay in monthly instalments over five years once their salaries reach 85 per cent of the average wage, about £13,000 to £14,000. Some are also entitled to grants of up to £1,800 (£2,300 in London), depending on their parents' income and many also rely on further financial help from home.

But many graduates have been unable to repay their loans and that has led to the virtual collapse of the Government's Student Loans Company.

Labour now plans to lend students at least £3,200 a year (£4,000 in London) and would expect them to pay back the sum over about twenty years. The party also wants to raise the starting salary for repayments, but it has not been decided to what level. It hopes that the Dearing Commission will advise a sum when it reports in September 1997.

Labour is also considering extending loans, at present confined to full-time students, to those on part-time courses and postgraduate education.

However, it concedes that

the plans will be expensive in the early stages and hopes the private sector will supplement the £1 billion the State puts towards the present system. To this end, a Learning Bank would be set up to which both the State and employers could contribute.

Labour also hopes to help mature students by linking its loans system to the independent learning accounts announced by Mr Blunkett last month. Under that scheme employees would earn tax relief and a government grant if they put money into a learning account, Mr Blunkett plans to adapt the scheme so that those in employment can use the credit in their learning accounts for tertiary education.

Labour's scheme of "progressive contributions" to replace the current student loans programme is modelled on an Australian system where pupils have to pay 20 per cent of their tuition fees on top of maintenance.

But the party has backed away at the moment from asking students to pay towards the costs of their tuition, although the new loan scheme is expected to cover the full maintenance costs.

The new system would apply only to new students and would not be retrospective.

The financial crisis in higher education has already forced the Government to halt its expansion plans and to freeze the number of places for four years. University vice-chancellors are considering charging students a £300 enrolment fee next year and it was that threat that prompted Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to set up the Dearing Commission.

Pupil selection, page 2



WPC Wade is comforted by her mother Patricia as she leaves the tribunal after she lost her harassment case

## Sex case WPC fights on

By Paul Wilkinson

A POLICEWOMAN who claimed that sexual harassment by her fellow officers brought her close to a nervous breakdown lost her case yesterday against three colleagues and their force.

Immediately WPC Karen Wade, of West Yorkshire police, said she would appeal. She still believed she had done much to help women officers who suffered abuse from male

colleagues in silence.

"Although the result was not in my favour I do not regret for one moment having done so," she said. WPC Wade, 27, who left the Leeds industrial tribunal in tears after the verdict, was defiant: "As a result of the vast media coverage that the case has received I believe I have given strength to others to stand up and challenge the treatment they are receiving." She had received more than 50 mes-

sages of support from men and women all over the country, both police officers and civilians in other lines of employment. She plans to return to work elsewhere in the force area.

WPC Wade, who has been off sick with stress since last July, had told the tribunal in her home city that she had endured months of sexual taunts and innuendos from the three officers during her

Continued on page 3, col 2

## Fighting sexism

The European Commission wants all medium-sized companies to appoint counsellors to combat sexual harassment at work. A consultative document has been completed. Page 25

## EU delays beef vote in hope of reaching a deal

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

BRITISH hopes of a compromise in the beef crisis stayed alive last night as an EU Commission vote was suspended in the hope of setting a date for easing the embargo provided extra guarantees were provided by Britain.

The Commission was struggling to stop Germany and a handful of other states blocking a vote to ease the ban on the export of beef by-products.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm Commissioner, tried to persuade reluctant farm ministers to get their veterinary officials to vote in favour of his call to lift the embargo on gelatin, tallow and bull semen.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was reported to have threatened that Britain would demand a special summit of EU leaders if the ban was not immediately eased. The calling of an emergency summit is the first item on a list of possible British retaliatory measures.

Germany appeared to have gathered enough allies to block any easing of the embargo under the EU's qualified majority voting rules until Britain introduces tougher measures to eradicate BSE.

Britain and the Commission had hoped that the veterinary committee of national officials would approve a first relaxation of the ban after Britain offered to double the size of the selective cattle cull which it had earlier proposed. But this was not enough for Germany, Austria, and Greece.

British farmers and vets denounced the Government's proposal to slaughter up to 80,000 cattle. The president of the British Veterinary Association, Bob Stevenson, said: "Extending the cull cannot be justified on scientific grounds and would be nothing more than a public relations exercise."

## Sinn Fein 'ready to fall in line'

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

GERRY ADAMS said last night that Sinn Fein was prepared to sign up to the six principles of non-violence that were outlined by George Mitchell in his report on the terrorists' weapons.

But the Sinn Fein president immediately lowered hopes of a fresh IRA ceasefire when he said he had no idea whether the organisation would end its present bombing campaign.

His comments fuelled speculation that Sinn Fein is trying to distance itself from the IRA in an attempt to put pressure on the Government to allow it to join peace talks without an IRA ceasefire. Some commentators believe that even if the IRA fails to declare a truce, Sinn Fein will say that it has

met the criteria for joining the talks, because it is totally separate from the IRA.

The Northern Ireland Office welcomed Mr Adams's comments that he would accept the Mitchell principles. However, a spokesman insisted that the IRA must declare an "unequivocal restoration" of its 1994 ceasefire before Sinn Fein could join the all-party talks on June 10.

In an interview with BBC Northern Ireland, Mr Adams said he would endorse the Mitchell principles if Britain agreed to hold proper all-party talks. The principles call for the "total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations" and call on political parties to renounce violence. He said: "I'll sign up to the Mitchell principles provided everybody is doing it and they are within

the context of proper all-party talks. All of those issues are within Sinn Fein's public policy." He insisted that John Major would also have to sign up to the principles, "given the history of British repression" in Ireland.

Mr Adams dampened speculation about a renewed IRA truce when he said that no-one knew what the IRA would do. Pressed on whether the IRA would end its campaign, he said: "We are not the IRA."

Ministers have made clear that they will not countenance any distinction between Sinn Fein and the IRA. Mr Major had said it was a "laughable fiction" to suggest that they were separate organisations.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, also rejected any suggestion that the two organisations were distinct.

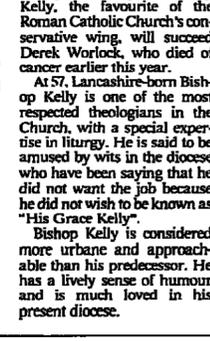
## Kelly to be named Liverpool archbishop

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE POPE will announce today that the Bishop of Salford, the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, is to be the new Archbishop of Liverpool. Bishop Kelly, the favourite of the Roman Catholic Church's conservative wing, will succeed Derek Worlock, who died of cancer earlier this year.

At 57, Lancashire-born Bishop Kelly is one of the most respected theologians in the Church, with a special expertise in liturgy. He is said to be amused by wits in the diocese who have been saying that he did not want the job because he did not wish to be known as "His Grace Kelly".

Bishop Kelly is considered more urbane and approachable than his predecessor. He has a lively sense of humour and is much loved in his present diocese.



Right Rev Patrick Kelly

## Cannes showers awards on British film-maker

By Dalva Alberg, Arts Correspondent

MIKE LEIGH, one of Britain's most admired writer-directors, was showered with awards at the Cannes Film Festival last night.

*Secrets and Lies*, his £3 million film about a black girl's search for her natural mother, won the coveted Palme d'Or Prize.

It also picked up the international critics' award for top film, and one of its lead characters, Britain's Brenda Blethyn, won the Grand Jury's vote as best actress.

She plays a woman traumatised by being reunited with the daughter she gave away at birth and who calls everyone "sweetheart, darling". Accepting her award at last night's glitzy ceremony, she slipped back into char-

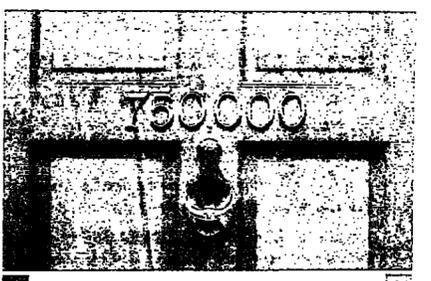
acter: "Cor, this is living ain't it?" "It's fantastic," Mr Leigh exclaimed. "I love my film and love watching it." The director, who focuses on the family and relationships against an urban background, spoke of being flattered to hear that *Secrets and Lies* had been making men cry.

Receiving his award from Anjelica Huston, the actress-director, he said he had "gone through hell" to make the

film. "But I enjoyed every minute of it." He said his award would encourage "anyone making a film about real life, caring, passion - the things that matter".

David Cronenberg's version of J G Ballard's 1970s cult book, *Crash*, won a special prize, despite controversy over its violence and sexual content.

Geoff Brown, page 35



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TV & RADIO ..... 46, 47  
WEATHER ..... 24  
CROSSWORDS ..... 24, 48

LETTERS ..... 17  
OBITUARIES ..... 19  
LIBBY PURVES ..... 16

ARTS ..... 33-35  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 43  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 18

SPORT ..... 43-46, 48  
BODY AND MIND ..... 14  
LAW REPORT ..... 21

FUNDS... RTY GIVING... OVER, SAYS... SEARJEAN... R LINDSAY COO... bers... gain... 1536 2625... WORKS

# Bald truth about Pendry's patchy performance

MICHAEL FABRICANT (C, Mid Staffs) knows a lot of words but sometimes has difficulty in using them. Meaning to be helpful yesterday, he clipped in after a question to the Heritage Secretary about television transmitters in Wales, from Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion & Pembroke N). Mr Fabricant had advice on what you or I might call the Welsh landscape, but he solemnly called it "the topology of the Principality".

"Ooh!" chorused MPs in mock admiration, like a *Blind Date* studio audience. But wasn't their admiration misplaced? Topology? Topography, surely?

We fell to wondering what

topology does mean. Speculating that it might mean the study of the top, I stared down aimlessly at the top of Tom Pendry's head.

Mr Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde) is a spokesman on sport in Labour's Heritage team. Sitting, as he does, below me and a few yards in front, I have a view enjoyed by few outside the bird world of his bald patch. It is perfectly round and wonderfully smooth, just like that of the Heritage spokesman Mark Fisher. Is this monkish look a precondition for speaking for the Opposition on heritage?

But as Mr Pendry spoke (on women's cricket), a more urgent speculation gripped me. "A silly answer to a silly



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

question," he sneered at Sports Minister Iain Sprouat, and each time he said "silly", the skin around the back of his bald patch wrinkled. It wrinkled in tiny waves, like ripples along one bank of a pond: an eyesless scowl on the top of his head.

But why only when he said "silly"? Unable to see the front of Mr Pendry's head without crossing the gallery and losing sight of the back, I can only hypothesise. I believe it is when he raises his eyebrows that the skin ridges at the back

of his head. It takes up the slack. Thus were the Andes raised, millions of years ago, by a moving plate on the globe's pate.

For the next Heritage Questions I have arranged for a colleague whose view is of the front of Mr Pendry's head to signal when he raises his eyebrows. Short of a system of mirrors this is the only way to check whether the phenomena are simultaneous.

But, as the philosopher David Hume taught us, where two events occur together, we can never know which causes which. We should not assume that it is the raising of Mr Pendry's eyebrows which is causing the ridging of the back of his bald patch.

It may be the other way round. The arena on which Mr Pendry's emotional life is played out may be the bald patch: he may be snarling with his scalp. It could be this which is tugging his eyebrows helplessly around — that famous Pendry quizzical look no more than what Mr Fabricant would call an epiphonemon. If he could get it right.

If this is the case then the television cameras are positioned wrongly, relaying surface movements on the part of Mr Pendry's head with the eyes, nose and mouth in it, instead of zooming in on what — as you, readers, and I are among the first to realise — may be the seat of an MP's passions: the bald patch on the top of his head.

"We want baldy justice!" shouted Dennis Skinner (L, Bolton), ten minutes later. His fellow heckler Andrew Mackinlay, the Beast of Thurgate, was demanding of ministers that judges break with tradition and abandon their wigs. Mr Mackinlay's question was signalled on the Order Paper. Moments before I saw an MP, one whom sketchwriters have long suspected of wearing a wig, eye Skinner — and slip prudently from the Chamber.

## Former treasurer urges Conservatives to return 'dubious' Nadir donation

# Labour calls for Nolan inquiry on Tory party funding

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR last night demanded that the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life investigate funding of the Conservative Party as the dispute intensified over an alleged donation from a Serbian businessman with reported links to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

Lord McAlpine of West Green, treasurer of the Tory party while Margaret Thatcher was leader, added to the Tories' discomfort when he urged John Major to return money donated by the fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir, former chairman of Polly Peck. Touche Ross, the accountants, are reported to have advised Conservative Central Office secretly three years ago that £365,000 of the money given by Nadir had been taken from Polly Peck.



McAlpine remarks were played down by party

Party treasurers yesterday began an inquiry into reports that they had accepted £100,000 from a Yugoslav-born businessman who was allegedly linked to Dr Karadzic, who is wanted for war crimes. John Kennedy, 30, a prospective Tory parliamentary candidate, is alleged to have arranged a lunch for the unnamed businessman and Jeremy Hanley, the then party chairman, in December 1994, at a Mayfair club.

Mr Hanley has denied that donations were discussed. At the weekend, the *Sunday Times* alleged that the donations were made between 1992 and 94 at the height of the war in Bosnia.

Tony Blair is expected to lead Labour's assault over the

missed the allegations "as fantastic nonsense". He said: "I have not raised any amount, either in total or in part."

The businessman, through his lawyers Peter Carter-Ruck has also denied the reports. "Our client is outraged by any suggestion that he is linked in any way to Radovan Karadzic or the Bosnian Serbs."

Lord McAlpine, a critic of Mr Major's administration, said: "At the time we took the donation from Asil Nadir, he was regarded as one of Britain's leading businessmen. He had just won the Queen's Award for Industry. Subsequently he turned out to be rather a bad lot. It seems as if the money that we took was dubious. Personally, I would have given it back," he told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*.

But Conservative Central Office officials played down the intervention of Lord McAlpine, saying: "We are surprised that Lord McAlpine raises these issues now because he has never raised them when he still had strong personal connections with Conservative Central Office."

Mr Prescott said: "As things stand, a multi-million pound Tory [election] campaign is being funded from secret sources. We have no idea what promises the Tories have given to foreign donors in return for the money. The time has come for John Major to reverse his previous decision to deny Nolan the opportunity to investigate party funding."

organise a high-profile visit to Belgrade by the exiled members of the family in 1991.

In 1994 his rise up the ladder continued when he became enquiry and private secretary to Prince Michael of Kent. In January 1995 he was arrested for allegedly trying to blackmail a member of the exiled Libyan Royal Family. Charges were never brought and he maintains that he was smeared by MI5.

His links with Radovan Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, were extensive. He has had many meetings with both and organised a visit to London by Dr Karadzic. He was also a paid consultant to a firm of political lobbyists, IGA, which acted for the Serbian Government until the imposition of



John Kennedy with Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia, a gossip-column favourite

# Kissinger of Yugoslavia who played the royal card

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN KENNEDY, a distant kinsman of the exiled Yugoslavian royal family, has relentlessly exploited his blue blood connections since his Surrey school days. He was dubbed Crown Prince of Suburbo Croatia by friends in the Greater London Young Conservatives because of his tendency to mention his royal forebears.

Mr Kennedy was born in Belgrade with the name Gvozdenovic but later added Kennedy, his British mother's maiden name. He came to England as a baby.

Mr Kennedy, 30, is engaged to Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia whose father, Prince Andrej, was third in line to his country's throne. He helped to

sanctions. Mr Kennedy's political connections, knowledge of his former homeland, and ability to act as an interpreter made him a prize catch for Dr Karadzic.

In 1992 Dr Karadzic described Mr Kennedy as the "Kissinger of Yugoslavia" for his peace efforts between the warring factions. He is referred to as Senator Kennedy in the Serbian press. Mr Kennedy has had no contact with Dr Karadzic since he was accused of war crimes.

Princess Lavinia, 30, a gossip-column favourite, has been a big success on the doorsteps of Halesowen and Rowley Regis, in the West Midlands, which Mr Kennedy will fight at the next election. The constituency has a Tory majority of 1,570.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Railtrack investors make instant profit

Railtrack investors were sitting on instant profits of up to £150 last night as shares in the company soared by 30½p on their first day of trading on the stock market.

City concerns about the Labour threat to Railtrack's profits were cast aside in heavy dealing. After opening at 190p the shares rose quickly to a peak of 227½p before closing at 220½p. About 9 per cent of the 665,000 small investors who applied for shares had sold out by the end of the day. "The view in the City is that this is two fingers stuck up at the Labour Party," one senior market source said.

Ministers said they were delighted by the response to the sale, which restores private ownership of Britain's railways and stations after 50 years of state control. However, Labour insisted that the flotation had been less successful than those of the Eighties. Business, pages 25, 26, 27, 28

### Sudan envoys expelled

Britain ordered the expulsion of three Sudanese diplomats, including a senior envoy, in keeping with United Nations sanctions over Sudan's support for terrorism. The Sudanese Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office and told that the diplomats must leave within a month. The remaining 12 face restrictions requiring them to give notice of any trips outside London. The Sudanese Embassy in London had no comment. Britain, which has seven diplomats in Khartoum, is awaiting retaliatory action.

### Strike ballot for pilots

British Airways flights could be grounded in July by a pilots' strike. The pilots' union, Balpa, is to ballot its 3,000 BA members on a pay and productivity package. BA yesterday announced record pre-tax profits of £585 million last year and said that its 56,000 staff were to share a £94 million bonus for helping to make the airline the most profitable in the world. The bonus, boosted by 20 per cent if taken in company shares, will be worth £5,000 to some pilots. Efficiency drive, page 25

### Transsexual fights RAF

A transsexual former RAF technician was granted leave to apply for a judicial review of the Ministry of Defence's decision to sack her. The 26-year-old woman, who joined the RAF as a man in 1990 and was dismissed in 1993, is challenging the legality of the MoD policy which bars from the forces anyone who has had a sex-change operation. Ms Justice Buxton said in the High Court that the case raises questions which should be argued before a full hearing.

### Couple shot in head

A British woman and her French husband, whose bodies were found at the weekend in the boot of their car at the bottom of a canal in Alsace, eastern France, were shot in the head, post-mortem examinations have shown. French police said yesterday that Alain and Angela Hay, car dealers who lived in the Channel port of Le Havre, may have been killed in connection with the lucrative cross-border trade in luxury cars.

### Grilling for Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce may have to redesign its radiator grille under Europe Union proposals aimed at improving safety for pedestrians in low-speed collisions. A draft directive, which is strongly opposed by car makers, would force all new cars from 2005 to have a smooth contoured front and bonnet. Luxury marques including Rolls-Royce would not meet the directive. Tests have shown that the regulations could save 70 lives a year in Britain and 700 across Europe.

### Robber awarded £1,000

A robber has been awarded £1,000 compensation for being kept in prison five days too long. Andrew Mason, 24, sentenced to two years by Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court for beating a disabled pensioner, should have been released on October 1, 1994, with maximum remission after completing half his term. Due to a clerical error, he remained in Swansea prison until October 6. The Home Office gave him £1,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

### Kirov at the Coliseum

The Kirov Ballet is to perform at the London Coliseum for the first time at Christmas in a rebroadcasted revival of one of their most famous productions, *The Nutcracker*, last seen in the 1960s. Their three-week season is among highlights of a 1996-97 programme announced yesterday by English National Opera. Other dance partnerships include a staging by the American Mark Morris Dance Group of Handel's *L'Allegro* with ENO musicians and singers.

### Man hacked to death

A former professional footballer was hacked to death by a 30-strong gang in a bloody feud between doormen, police said yesterday. Stephen Cole, a former Liverpool reserves player, was hunted down by the gang armed with baseball bats, knives and machetes who roamed the neighbourhood in a convoy of up to a dozen cars. They burst into a crowded pub in Fazakerley and attacked Mr Cole, 37, in spite of his wife Lorraine's attempts to intervene.

### Jon Pertwee dies at 76

Jon Pertwee, the character actor best known as the third Dr Who, has died while on holiday in America. Pertwee, who was 76, died of a heart attack in his sleep while staying with his German-born second wife, Ingeborg, in Connecticut. During a career spanning 60 years he will be best remembered as the most stylishly dressed Dr Who and as the scarier character Wozzeck Gummidge. This year he had toured in a one-man theatre show. *Obituary*, page 19

### Nesting birds need feed

Garden owners should go on putting out peanuts, sunflower seeds and other food for birds throughout the summer, the British Trust for Ornithology said. The advice is based on new research showing that an artificial food supply increases the chances of a successful nesting season. This overturns the previous orthodoxy that nuts and seeds should not be put out during nesting because of the danger that chicks might choke on them.

## New colleges move to pupil selection

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are investigating new tests for 11-year-olds to select pupils for specialist technology colleges. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced yesterday.

Another 38 schools were named as language or technology colleges yesterday, bringing the number of specialist schools in the Government's programme to 196.

With most of the schools heavily oversubscribed, new aptitude tests are being explored to ensure that places go to the most talented pupils in the subject.

With a White Paper on school admissions due for publication next month, the announcement will be seen as a further step in the direction of selective schooling. But Mrs Shephard emphasised that the new tests did not signal a wholesale return to 11-plus examinations.

"What we want to do is to make it easier for schools and colleges that do want to select, where that is the local wish," Mrs Shephard said. "No-one intends to impose a return to

the 11-plus. But there is no doubt selection by aptitude in this area will be useful in some schools."

The National Foundation for Educational Research has been commissioned to develop the technology tests. Mrs Shephard said some schools already assessed pupils' aptitude for technology. The new tests, to be carried out in primary schools, would be an additional tool to gauge potential, rather than knowledge of the subject.

The 24 new technology colleges and 14 specialising in languages will benefit from a mixture of public and private funding.

Business sponsors, who have contributed £30 million to the programme, include multinational corporations such as British Aerospace, Glaxo Wellcome and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Group.

Labour welcomed research into testing aptitude, which a spokesman said fitted the party's ideas about banding by ability and setting benchmarks to test pupils' progress.

## Redwood supports rebels on media

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD stepped into an internal Tory dispute last night to support two ministerial aides who may be forced to resign today.

Peter Atkinson and John Whittingdale, both parliamentary private secretaries, have threatened to vote against provisions in the Broadcasting Bill.

They have signed an amendment calling for the Government to abandon plans to prevent groups with more than 20 per cent of national newspaper circulation from investing in Channel 5 or independent television.

The rules would affect Mirror Group Newspapers and News International, which owns *The Times* and three other national newspapers.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Whittingdale were strongly supported by Mr Redwood, the former Conservative leadership challenger. He said that he had already told the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, of his reservations about the Bill, although he was not threatening the Government. "I point-

ed out the technology was moving very quickly. The distinctions between different types of media journalism were being blurred. I asked her if her instincts were a little out of pace."

Ms Bottomley has been given unanimous backing by Cabinet colleagues and will not give in to the rebellion.

Herat, Iain Sprouat, National Heritage Minister, will tell MPs that the 20 per cent limit ensures a variety of ownership.

Mr Atkinson and Mr Whittingdale argue that the limit should be replaced with rules allowing cross-media ownership unless it is against the public interest. If they do not back the Government position in the committee vote, they would be expected to resign from their PPS positions.

Mr Atkinson is PPS to the Foreign Office ministers Jeremy Hanley, David Davis and Sir Nicholas Bonsor. Mr Whittingdale is PPS to the Education and Employment ministers Eric Forth and Lord Henley.

## One Nation Dorrell stakes claim to centre ground

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

STEPHEN DORRELL laid claim to the Tory centre ground yesterday in a speech asserting that Lady Thatcher was a One Nation Tory and rejecting the prescriptions of left-wing parties to meet people's fears about economic insecurity.

In remarks that confirmed the Health Secretary's shift to the Right away from his former position as one

of the leading figures on the Left, Mr Dorrell daringly invoked Thatcherism to dismiss the attempts of Tony Blair to secure the One Nation mantle.

Mr Dorrell's speech to the Tory Reform Group in London was immediately seen by Conservative MPs last night as putting down a marker for any future leadership contest. Michael Howard's fierce attack last Friday on the European Court of Justice and his call for powers to be repatriated from Brussels was seen in a similar light

and has undoubtedly strengthened his support on the Euro-sceptic Right.

The flurry of philosophical speeches from senior Cabinet ministers led Labour to claim last night that a Tory leadership contest was under way. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said Mr Dorrell "is trying to be the unity candidate and making a fool of himself".

But it was Mr Dorrell's attempt to bridge the Tories' divide on welfare and Europe that most caught the eye of

senior Conservatives. He said the obligation to support those who were unable to support themselves was one that every Conservative would acknowledge, but the increasing size of the social security budget raised questions that could not be dodged.

In words that would also have pleased the Right, Mr Dorrell underlined the concept of nationhood, which he said was at the heart of Conservative political tradition, and called for a "Europe à la carte" as an assertion of it.

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# Air crash nurse hailed a heroine for saving doctor

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A NURSE who staggered from the wreckage of an air ambulance to rescue a severely injured doctor was praised as a heroine yesterday as accident investigators began an inquiry into the crash.

After surviving the impact and raising the alarm at a house nearby, Maureen Polson, 27, returned to the scene close to Tingwall airstrip in Shetland to pull Gerald Freshwater, 47, clear of the aircraft which was in danger of catching fire.

Dr Freshwater, a consultant anaesthetist from Lerwick, received severe chest injuries, and was on a ventilator in a serious condition last night. He was operated on for several hours at the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick before being transferred by air ambulance to Glasgow's Royal Infirmary.

The pilot, Alan Young, 37, from Goff, Shetland, was killed instantly when his eight seater Britten-Norman Islander, operated by Loganair, crashed in atrocious weather. The bruised and severely shocked nurse, from the Isle of Whalsay, was "very, very

brave", said her boss, Derek Cox, a public health director, who also praised ambulance men and paramedics. "She lifted debris off Dr Freshwater, undid his seat belt and got him away from danger."

The aircraft had taken an injured oil platform worker to hospital in Inverness and was returning to Lerwick when it crashed shortly before 1.00am yesterday. It is the first fatal crash involving an air ambulance in more than 30 years.

Witnesses said the aircraft was attempting to land at Tingwall when it crashed into farmland half a mile from the end of the runway.

The aircraft is reported to have been making its second attempt at landing. The pilot may have wanted to check for gusts of crosswind over the runway before attempting a landing. He then flew south for a mile until he was over the north end of Tingwall Loch, and appears to have turned west, to make another circuit of the airfield.

As the plane turned, the blustery south-easterly wind, with gusts of up to Force 8, was on its tail. The aircraft lost height when it should have

been climbing and, instead of flying above electricity lines on the gently sloping hillside, it headed under the wires.

Skid marks on the grass show where the aircraft's nosewheel struck the ground. Travelling at up to 100 mph, its undercarriage hit a post-and-wire farm fence. Listening it and toppling the aircraft forwards and sideways. It smashed into an electricity pole, ploughed through another fence and cartwheeled across a 3ft-deep ditch before skidding to a halt.

The Britten-Norman Islander, believed to be about 20 years old, had flown inter-island flights in Shetland and Orkney for almost 30 years and is regarded as one of the safest of all small aircraft.

Scott Grier, managing director of Loganair, said: "Alan Young was a fine young man. We are all very sad at the loss of a colleague and very distressed for Mrs Young."

Mr Grier said Loganair would carry out its own investigation. "We are trying to establish all the facts. The weather was windy and wet, but it was typical Shetland weather and our pilots are experienced in such conditions."

Councillor Jim Irvine said the whole of Shetland had been shocked by the accident. "Dr Freshwater is a very popular doctor. Everyone will be tremendously shocked by this."

Linda Freshwater, the doctor's wife, who is a former theatre sister, said: "I am used to seeing people connected to tubes, but it is obviously different when it is someone so close to you." The couple have two children, Eleanor, 21, and Edward, 19, who are both at Coventry University.



The wreckage of the Islander air ambulance that crashed in Shetland. The pilot was killed instantly



Jane Asher and the Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, admiring a rose launched to mark the 900th anniversary of Norwich Cathedral

# Warm welcome for Queen at Chelsea show

By Robin Young

THE QUEEN toured the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday evening in bright sunshine. The more clement weather came as a relief to exhibitors who had fought through a cold, dark spring, and who feared at the weekend that high winds might blow their great

marquee down. The Queen found the weather pleasant enough for an outdoor stroll and toured the outside gardens first.

"That isn't very pretty," she said, indicating a bespectacled iron mask with ram's horns used as a decorative centrepiece in a "globetrotters' garden" designed by students of

Askham Bryan College, near York. It is to be hoped her ancestors did not share this opinion. The item was a copy of a helmet given to Henry VIII by the Emperor Maximilian and now in the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

The exhibitors are still wondering, though, what the British climate will throw at them next, and there is

gloomy agreement that it is likely to be a summer of drought. The Chelsea show has four miles of water pipes and a copious supply from 20,000-gallon tanks. Few horticulturalists expect such bounty to be available to the nation's gardeners this summer.

Show report, page 18

# Boy accused of killing 'enjoyed being bad'

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY of 10 who dropped a piece of concrete from the roof of a 12-storey block of flats, killing a pensioner, later told police that it was fun to be bad, a court heard yesterday.

The jury at Leeds Crown Court was told that one of its tasks was to decide whether the boy, who cannot be named, knew he was doing wrong. He has denied the manslaughter of Edna Condie, 74, who was hit by the 19lb coping stone as she entered the block of flats in Kirkstall, Leeds, last August.

As Michael Harrison, QC, outlined the case, the boy sat between his mother and a social worker at the back of the court, dressed in a hooded top and jeans. Mr Harrison claimed the defendant knew it was wrong to throw things from the roof, as he had been in trouble before after smashing a bus window.

Mr Harrison said the boy was one of a group that had persuaded a woman to let them into the building and had made their way to the roof. "One of the children claimed one of his friends had warned the boy not to throw the stone, but he had replied, 'Watch me and see.' He then threw it off."

Police arrested the defendant at his home. Mr Harrison said: "When asked by police if he thought throwing things from the roof was fun, the defendant said 'Yes'. When asked why it was fun, he said he didn't know. When asked if it was fun being bad, the defendant replied 'Yes' and said it wasn't fun being good." The hearing continues.

# WPC loses case

Continued from page 1  
service at Holbeck station. She claimed the final straw had come when one of the three, PC Dean Mountain, jokingly asked a glue sniffer she had just helped arrest whether he wanted to have sex with her.

After a five-day hearing, the tribunal decided against her complaints of sexual harassment by PC Mountain, 30, Sergeant Paul Fountain, 30, and Detective Sergeant Ian Devey, 32, and the West Yorkshire police. It also dismissed her claim of victimisation by the force and her allegations of a criminal conspiracy among the officers to pervert the course of justice.

Tony Simpson, the tribunal chairman, said they had reached a decision that none of the respondents discriminated against her on the grounds of her sex. "As none of the allegations were found to be substantiated on the balance of probabilities, it is not necessary for the tribunal to consider any allegations against the first respondent, the West Yorkshire police."

WPC Wade had complained that the Police Federation, the junior ranks' union, had chosen to support the three officers against her allegations. She had been represented free of charge by Maureen Baker, who lectures West Yorkshire police on racial and sexual

harassment. Hilary McLaughlin, who represented the three officers, said: "Since August 1995 these officers have been subjected to an internal and external investigation. Nothing was found by the internal investigation but the applications to the public arena, only for the men to be exonerated again."

The tribunal had heard evidence last week from Sergeant Jane McGill, an officer with 26 years' service who had broken down in tears as she spoke of a "culture of sexual harassment" within the force. She said she had been sexually assaulted four times during her career.

Keith Hellawell, the West Yorkshire Chief Constable, welcomed the tribunal's finding, but admitted there was an element of sexual harassment within the force and he found it repugnant.

"I will continue to encourage officers to report incidents of harassment and I will continue to make it clear that such behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated." "The outcome of the tribunal supports the findings of the very thorough internal investigation that preceded this case. I am not naive enough to believe that there is no harassment within this organisation."



The three officers, from left, PC Mountain, Sgt Fountain and Sgt Devey, who were exonerated

# Rocky moment for minister on whether to roll with Oasis

By Gillian Bowditch

ROCK fans may be about to present Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, with the most difficult decision of his career. Eighty thousand tickets have been sold for two Oasis concerts in a conservation area, before planning permission has been granted. The final go-head could rest with Mr Forsyth. If he says no to the performances on Loch Lomondside, it could cost his party a large chunk of the youth vote. If he says yes, he risks upsetting rural voters

near his Stirling constituency, where his majority is 703.

The concerts at Balloch country park on August 3 and 4 sold out ten days ago. A temporary campsite is being established and a regular site has been block-booked by Dutch and Austrian fans.

Opponents among local residents point out that the village has just one public lavatory, and there are fears that the wildlife haven may be badly damaged. Residents have until tomorrow to voice complaints to West Dunbartonshire Council, which

stands to gain £70,000 from the concerts.

The planning committee will decide on the fate of the concerts on June 5. A council spokeswoman said that the issue could be referred to Mr Forsyth under one of his own directives, stating that conflicts of interest on planning consent must go to the Scottish Office.

The concert promoters, Regular Music of Edinburgh, pointed out that the council had already agreed to let the park, and said it would be perverse to deny permission.

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# Two beers on ferry may cost drivers £4,000 French fine

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of British holidaymakers risk being fined or jailed for drink-driving this summer because they are unaware that the French alcohol limit has been cut, the AA said yesterday.

The new limit of 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood compares with 80mg in Britain, and is the equivalent of two units of alcohol. For most drivers this means that two glasses of wine or two small bottles of French beer on a Channel ferry will be enough to put them over the limit on the other side.

With three million motorists expected to cross the Channel during the peak holiday season, there are fears that Britons will become targets for French police monitoring roads to the ports and the main holiday resorts.

French police can breathalyse drivers at random. Drivers who test positive face fines of up to £4,000 for alcohol levels between 50mg and

80mg. Higher levels carry a maximum penalty of two years in prison. Licences are confiscated, and drivers would have to reapply when they return to Britain.

The new limit was introduced last autumn, but motoring organisations believe few British drivers have heard of it. Andrew Howard, head of road safety at the AA, said: "There are a lot of people who don't realise the change. Britons who start their holiday with a few drinks on the ferry could easily put themselves over the limit for driving in France. The rule is simple: if you are driving, don't drink any alcohol."

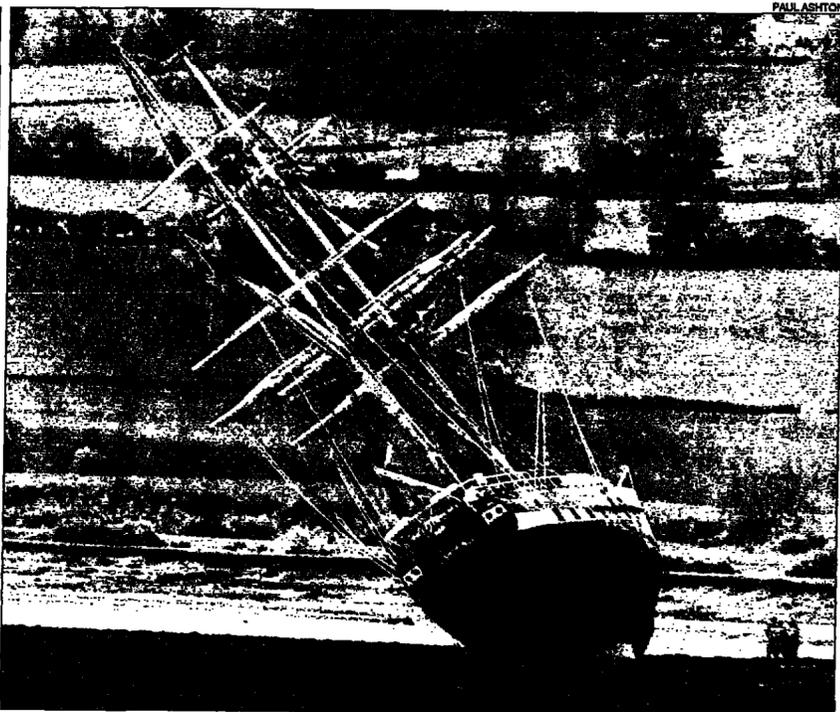
Doug Mathieson, treasurer of the Association of British Travel Operators in France, said operators should remind clients of the new limit when they make their bookings and highlight it on travel documentation.

There have been two cuts in the French drink-driving limit

over the past two years in response to growing concern about road safety. About 8,000 people are killed on French roads each year, more than twice as many as in Britain.

The new limit brought France in line with Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Holland, Norway, Portugal and Turkey. However, European Union moves to standardise the 50mg level in all member states are being resisted by Britain, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain, which all have an 80mg ceiling. In Poland and Sweden, 20mg is the maximum. In Finland, Hungary and Romania, driving with any alcohol in the blood is banned.

A European Union spokesman said: "Even at a level of 20mg, symptoms of impaired concentration may be registered. Factors like fatigue, illness, stress and drugs have additional adverse effects and may cause severe concentration loss."



The Royalist stranded on a sandbank in the Bristol Channel. A helicopter and lifeboat rescued passengers

# Employees' day at sea ends on sandbank

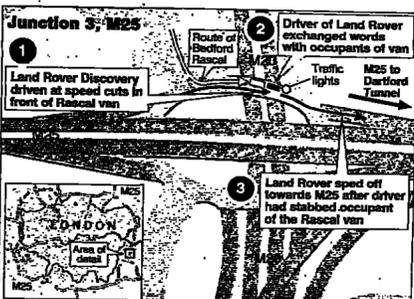
By RICHARD DUCE

AN OFFICE outing on board a sailing ship ended abruptly yesterday when the vessel ran aground in the Bristol Channel and the 20 workers had to be rescued.

Denmans, an electrical firm in Bristol, had hired the training ship Royalist for £30,000. But its staff, including a pregnant woman, had to be taken to safety in an RAF helicopter and an inflatable lifeboat after it hit a sandbank near Oldbury power station. No one was hurt.

The 13 crew of the vessel, owned by the Sea Cadet Association, stayed on board as attempts were made to refloat the ship last night. Also on board was a pilot whose job had been to navigate from Sharpness, Gloucester, to Barry, South Glamorgan.

Jerry Rowett, a director of Denmans, which hired the ship to mark the company's fiftieth year, said: "I promised them a day out they would never forget - but this wasn't what I had in mind."



# Police hope for video clue to roadside killing

By ADRIAN LEE

DETECTIVES were examining tape from motorway video cameras yesterday and checking the records of 15,000 Land Rovers as they searched for the killer of a motorist during a "road rage" attack.

Stephen Cameron, 21, an electrician, died from a stab wound to the heart after the altercation off the M25 near Swanley, in Kent. He was a passenger in a Bedford van driven by his teenage girlfriend.

The other motorist, who police said had overtaken the couple at speed, was driving a dark-coloured, L-registered Land Rover Discovery. He was described as white, about 5ft 10in tall, with brown medium-length hair and wearing blue jeans and a dark bomber jacket. Today Mr Cameron's brother will appear at a press conference to make a public appeal to catch the killer. Police will also issue a photofit impression of the wanted man.

Kent police said 400 people had come forward with information by yesterday afternoon, including some who claimed to have been in similar incidents involving a car matching the description. The murder of Mr Cameron at 1.22pm on Sunday at traffic lights on a roundabout near junction three of the M25, prompted the RAC to call for "road rage" to be taken more seriously by the Government and police.

The RAC also said motorists convicted of attacks on other drivers should face compulsory bans and be allowed to take the wheel again only after counselling.

Police said the murderer could have joined the roundabout from up to six roads but drove off afterwards along the M25 towards the Dartford Tunnel. Tape from cameras on the M25, M20 and other roads was being studied but police said the quality might not be good enough to read the number plate.

Detective Superintendent John Grace said he was satisfied that Mr Cameron did not know his killer but had left his vehicle to remonstrate with him. The other man either produced a knife during the



Cameron: killed by a stab wound to heart

argument or returned to his Land Rover and stabbed Mr Cameron twice. The weapon, described as a narrow-bladed knife, has not been recovered.

Mr Grace said: "It was an extremely violent response to what was a minor incident." He warned other motorists: "Avoid confrontation - it is not worth it."

Mr Cameron's girlfriend was said by police yesterday to be traumatised. "It is a question of counselling her rather than questioning her at the moment," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Cameron lived with his parents, Ken and Antoinette, a hospital worker, in Swanley. Yesterday, they laid flowers at the spot where their son was stabbed. A note on one bunch said: "Steve, I will love you, cherish you and be with you forever - Mum."

The victim's uncle, who declined to be named, said: "Stephen was a fun-loving lad who enjoyed life. We are a close family and this has shattered us."

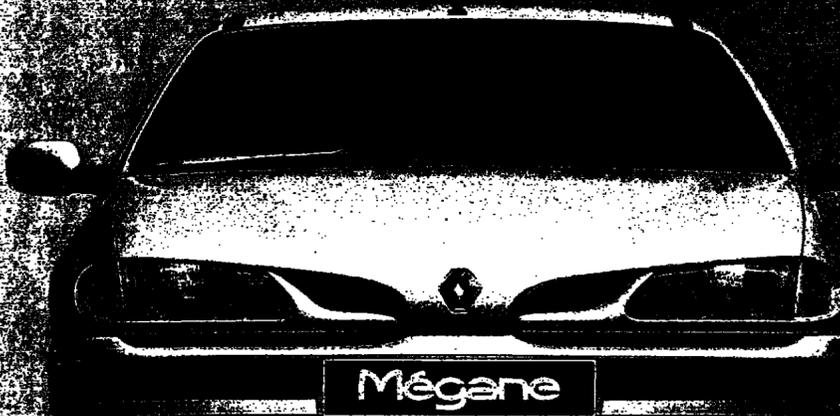
The family moved to a bungalow in Swanley about two years ago from Orpington. Stephen Cameron left Kenal Manor School at the age of 16 to set up his own electrical engineering business. He was a keen football supporter, who followed Millwall, and also played golf. A friend said yesterday: "He would always stick up for his mates - he was the type to protect his girlfriend but he was not the argumentative type. He was more into having a laugh."

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**CORRECTIONS**  
□ A report (May 1) wrongly suggested that Cheltenham Conservative Club had closed the premises which it owns in the town's Vittoria Walk. It has not, but Cheltenham Conservative Association, which occupied rooms at the club, has moved to larger premises. We apologise for the error.  
□ A painting by Jack Butler Yeats, *Farewell to Mayo*, sold for £804,500 at Sotheby's, not £408,500 as reported on May 17.

# Underneath the arches: the best London address

By Marcus Binney and Alan Hamilton

MARBLE ARCH, one of the best-known landmarks in London, may soon be available to rent after a £100,000 refurbishment.

The Department of National Heritage is willing to consider applications for using the tiny police station that once occupied the arch at the end of Oxford Street. "It's government policy that historic buildings should have a sympathetic use whenever possible," a spokesman said. One possibility is an exhibition gallery at the top of the arch.

So far the only potential tenant is a canny property developer seeking to turn the arch into an office. The two sides of the arch contain narrow twisting staircases, barely 2ft wide, which lead to small rooms with brick vaulted ceilings — an early form of fireproofing — and Regency fireplaces.

The rooms are lit by port-holes in the flanks of the arch. The staircases continue to a

large chamber spanning the width of the arch, which also has a fireplace. Benches around the walls were used by parks police when they assembled on ceremonial occasions. The only natural lighting comes from skylights.

In the centre is a large table which must have been constructed within the arch because it is too large to have come up the stairs. Marble Arch has electricity and running water and is connected to mains sewerage. Restorers have discovered that the magnificent 20ft gates within the arch are not cast iron, as had been thought, but solid bronze and as richly detailed as the gates of a great palace or cathedral.

The police station inside the arch was established in 1886 as a reporting centre, where policemen on the beat checked in with the station in the days before radios. Later it was used for normal police duties but it has not been used since the early 1970s. After restora-

tion, the Carrara marble of the arch has emerged as a brilliant white, veined with grey, with virtually no staining or discoloration. The 30ft columns are made of single shafts of marble.

John Rushworth, the site manager, said: "You could not pick a worse site for the arch. We experimented with 28 methods of cleaning before choosing a very low-pressure form of sandblasting. With marble, unlike stone, you cannot simply wash the surface with water. It just pushes decay further into the material."

The most serious erosion has taken place on the carved acanthus leaves of the Corinthian capitals, which the contractors are urgently seeking to treat before the scaffolding comes down at the end of May. A system of thin, barely visible stainless steel wire has been put on flat ledges to discourage pigeons from roosting.

Marble Arch is one of London's mistakes. Designed by John Nash in 1827 as the ceremonial entrance to Buckingham Palace, which he remodelled on a grand scale for George IV, it was a magnificent and fitting memorial to the recently concluded Napoleonic Wars. But it was too narrow to allow passage of the Gold State Coach, which carries British sovereigns to their Coronations.

Modelled on the Arch of Constantine in the Forum of ancient Rome, Nash's creation was intended to eclipse Napoleon's triumphal Arc du Carrousel in front of the Louvre. It was built of marble to contrast with the warm Bath stone of the rest of the palace, but it was an unhappy choice: the stone, quarried at Seravezza in Italy, has suffered from the British climate and London pollution, and is now a mass of hairline cracks.

Marble Arch originally stood at the entrance to Buckingham Palace. When Queen Victoria occupied the palace on her accession in 1837, she found it too small and in due course, with nine children, ordered Prince Al-



Stonemasons at work on the facade of Marble Arch, which has emerged as a brilliant white, with virtually no staining or discoloration



Marble Arch two years ago: badly needing a clean. Below, the rooms soon to be available to rent



bert to do some hefty rebuilding. The palace frontage was reconstructed to provide more living space, and the redundant arch was moved stone by stone to its present location in 1851.

The chosen site was Tyburn Gallows, at the northeast corner of Hyde Park, where executions once attracted Werbley-sized crowds, and where in more recent times the earnest, the committed and their plain daft have spouted their monologues at Speaker's Corner.

Various schemes have been put forward to rescue the marooned arch from its traffic roundabout, one of the busiest in Britain, where it has been cut off from Hyde Park since 1960. Today the arch is used only by royal processions and the Royal Horse Artillery on the ceremonial route to fire a salute in Hyde Park.

Leading article, page 17

## Grant lets Science Museum spread wings

By Lin Jenkins

THE Science Museum in London is to increase its exhibition space by almost a third with a new wing partly funded by lottery cash.

The announcement of the £23 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will allow construction of the £44 million project, announced last August, to begin in the autumn. The wing, to be built behind the museum in Exhibition Road, South Kensington, will be devoted to

contemporary science, medicine and technology. At present there is room to display only about 15 per cent of the collections.

The wing will include a permanent display, called Making of the Modern World, illustrating the role in society of science, technology and industry during the past 200 years. Interactive displays will cover molecular genetics, biotechnology, brain science and information technology. The four-storey wing will also have a film theatre

and scientific garden. The award is the first to be made to the sciences and enables work to start because £15 million had already been donated by the Wellcome Trust. Sir Neil Cossons, director of the museum, said the presentation of contemporary science and technology was the inspiration for the museum when it was founded in 1857 with proceeds from the Great Exhibition. "The exponential growth of science and technology in the late 20th century

has made our responsibilities even more challenging," he said. The grant is one of 35 totalling £52 million announced today. A £348,000 grant will go towards a workshop and visitor welcome point at Iona Abbey on the island of Mull.

About £42,000 has been given to renovate the Ardnurchan lighthouse in Inverness, built in 1846 on the most westerly point of the British mainland. Canvey Island in Essex will receive £15,300 for its heritage centre.

## Historic house faces compulsory sale

THE owners of one of London's finest 18th-century houses are to be ordered to sell it to English Heritage after neglecting to carry out vital repairs (Lin Jenkins writes).

The rare move compulsorily to purchase Chandos House follows the owners' failure to meet a legal requirement to carry out repairs costing nearly £1 million. The house, built in 1770 for the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, has been empty for five years. It featured in the film of the Jane Austen novel *Sense and Sensibility*. Fairgate Investments had

said it would meet the terms of a notice and begin work on dry rot after Easter, but failed to do so, according to English Heritage. The company is understood to have bought the house for £6 million during the property boom and to be unwilling to sell for less.

English Heritage declined to say how much it would be prepared to offer before selling the house to an owner willing to meet the £400,000 bill for treating the dry rot and repairing the roof and windows, and £500,000 replacing four stolen Adam fireplaces. Fairgate is suing a security company over the theft.



Chandos House: owners failed to carry out repairs

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## Cambridge library bars the mobile phone pests

By Alan Hamilton

MOBILE phones have been banned from use at Cambridge University's main library, after complaints about the distraction to studious readers. It is the latest of a growing list of institutions to try to curb a background noise of beeps, warbles and unwanted, one-sided conversations.

Notices have gone up asking library's users to switch off their phones while on the premises. Roy Welbourn, the university's deputy librarian, said: "The corridors were being used more and more like an extended telephone kiosk, and I have had reports of lengthy and trivial conversations taking place in the reading room itself."

"This is not a luddite response, merely a response to complaints from people wanting to study in a reasonably quiet atmosphere." The University Library is used by large numbers of postgraduate researchers, and by scholars from all over the world. At Oxford, the Bodleian Library already bans mobile phones and personal stereos after experiencing similar problems.

Earlier this year the newly privatised Great Western Railway announced its intention to restrict mobile telephonists to designated carriages. But the Savoy Hotel in London, which tried to ban mobile phones from many of its public areas last year, decided it was fighting a losing battle. Warbling at the Savoy is once again allowed.

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One of our next major tasks is to convert the Society to a public company. This is due to take place by the summer of 1997, if our members vote in favour earlier in the year. This will take us one step further in achieving our aim of being the biggest and best personal finance business in the UK.

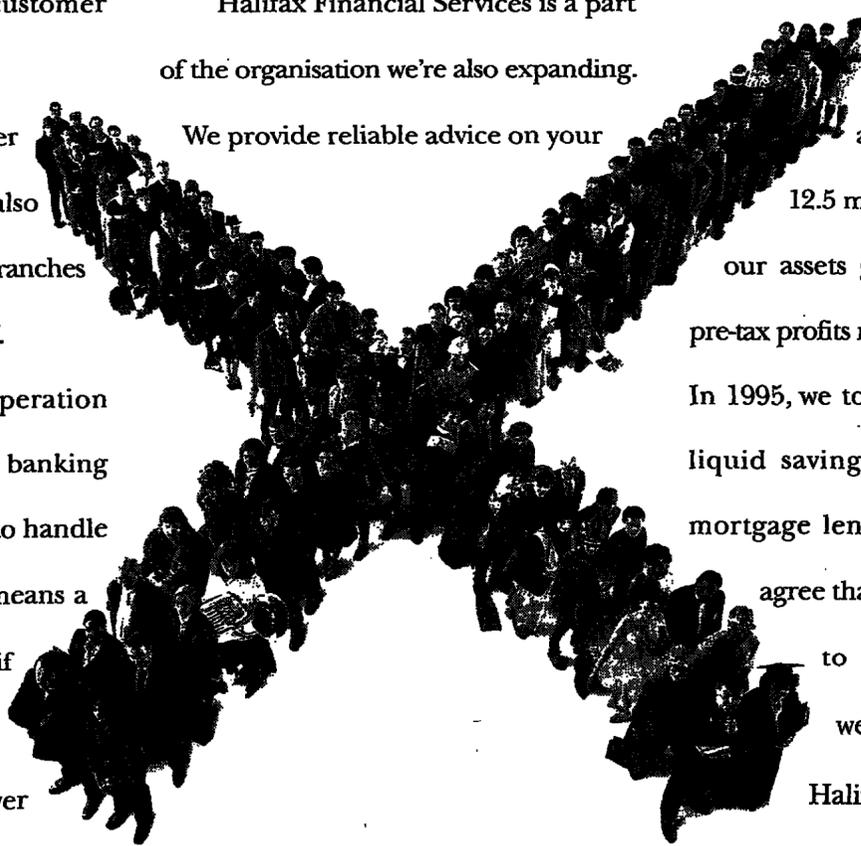
At the Annual General Meeting on 20th May, our Chairman, Jon Foulds, was able to report encouraging financial

results. In terms of our security and stability as

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# 1,500ft asteroid comes close to making the Earth move

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

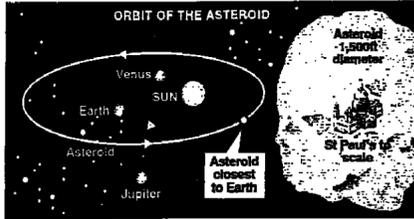
AN ASTEROID that narrowly missed Earth on Sunday was big enough to have done huge damage had it achieved a direct hit.

Thousands of square miles would have been ruined if it had struck land, or a tidal wave created if it landed in the sea. Yet it was detected only four days before it passed by 280,000 miles away, or roughly the distance to the Moon.

Astronomers believe there are thousands of undetected asteroids whose orbits cross that of the Earth. A search in March by the US space

agency Nasa found four new ones in just 12 weeks. The latest Earth-skimmer was found by two young American astronomers. Since searches began in recent years, only five objects have passed closer to the Earth than this one, and none was anything like as large.

The new asteroid, named 1996 JA1, is estimated to be about 1,000 to 1,500 feet in diameter. This is ten times as large as the objects that created Meteor Crater in Arizona 50,000 years ago, and laid waste thousands of acres of Siberian forest in 1908. Tim



Spahr, a graduate student at the University of Florida, who discovered the asteroid, said: "This asteroid wouldn't destroy civilisation if it hit Earth, but it would sure mess things up." He was working with

Carl Hergenrother at the University of Arizona's 16-inch telescope in the Santa Catalina mountains north of Tucson, surveying the sky and taking photographs. The image showing 1996 JA1 was

taken last Monday, but not developed until Wednesday, when the object was noticed. Dr Duncan Steel of the University of Adelaide, an astronomer who specialises in the impacts of comets and asteroids, estimates that 1996 JA1 could have devastated an area of 100,000 miles square miles if it hit land, or created a wave 50 to 100 metres high if its impact was in the oceans.

The object was seen only days before its closest approach. "If it had been on a collision course, we would not have had time to do much about it," he said. The discoverers of 1996 JA1 have been searching since 1992, using

outdated equipment. Unlike other searches, who point their telescope along the plane of the solar system — the ecliptic — they look 35 degrees above the plane.

"We were told when we started this project that we would never find anything interesting," Mr Hergenrother said. "But this object would not have been found if we had been looking along the ecliptic like everyone else."

The orbit of 1996 JA1 is now being calculated, and it appears to visit Earth about every four years. Attempts will now be made to work out whether it will come any closer.

Searches for objects on collision course with the Earth, once deemed the province of cranks, has become serious in recent years. In March a major search began, funded by Nasa and using a 39-inch US Air Force telescope in Hawaii, attached to a computer system that automatically sifts the images.

In its first 12-day run the Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking System (Neat) detected more than 2,400 objects in various orbits, half of which had never been seen before. Among them were four new asteroids ranging in size from 1.8 miles to less than 330ft with orbits that cross the Earth's. "These discoveries

certainly suggest that we could face a surprise encounter with a large, unseen object," said Dr Eleanor Helin, the project's principal investigator.

Using a more sensitive detector which has just been installed, Neat should be able to detect 50 to 70 Earth-crossers per month, or 600 a year. "That's kind of frightening," Dr Helin said.

The odds that any will hit the Earth in the near future are remote. An event as large as the 1908 impact might be expected every 50 to 100 years, with an object the size of 1996 JA1 impacting only every 1,000 to 10,000 years.

## German and Dutch football hooligans look forward to settling old scores at Euro 96

# Nazi label obscures two tribes who just want to go to war

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WOLFGANG B is a happy man. His team, Cologne, has escaped relegation and in a few weeks he will be having the fight of his life outside a British pub as Germany tries to reach the finals of the European football championship.

"It should be good," says the 27-year-old mechanic, who has taken kung fu classes for two years. "I've always liked Britain."

Wolfgang does not conform to the stereotypes of the much-trumpeted German invasion force. He is not a neo-Nazi ("can't stand politics"), doesn't have a shaven head ("my girlfriend would not stand for it") and he comes from a solid lower middle-class family.

There are, according to Professor Wilhelm Heitmeyer of Bielefeld University, three basic categories of German fans: the consumer-orientated who pick and choose which matches they want to attend; the football-orientated who attend every single match; and the experience-orientated who seek violent adventure in and out of the stadium.

The police broadly agree. They talk of "category C" fans — tough youths — and expect 1,000 of them to be setting off for Britain in a total contingent of perhaps 10,000 or more.

In Cologne it is easy to identify category C. Every



FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

Saturday they occupy Block 38 in the Cologne stadium. Wolfgang B is not a Block 38 man, but he remembers some formidable battles. "One Wednesday we Cologne hools [short for hooligans] beat hell out of some Turkish-origin Cologne hools during an international between Germany and Turkey. Then, on Saturday, we were fighting together again against Hamburg."

That tribalism, rather than hidden neo-Nazi puppet mastery, is the nature of the German and Dutch thugs. British police should spot them easily: not the obvious skinheads, but relatively harmless-looking youths wearing heavy belts and carrying umbrellas that conceal, or later become, weapons.

The established German supporters' clubs have banished many of the most violent

troublemakers, but the hardened cliques have formed their own gangs — the Adlerfront (Eagle Front), the Hamburg Ultras, the BFCs from Berlin. Sometimes they have contacts with each other, arranging pitched battles in advance, holding joint Christmas or anniversary parties.

In the magazine *Fan-Treff*, they chronicle their latest encounters: "There was some pretty bad hand-to-hand combat at the last game... ten Eagle Fronters and Ultras knocked each other's faces in with their belts."

Yet these same groups come together for national games. "In the German league they crack each other's skulls," says Steffen Heumann of *Fan-Treff*. "In the European championship you pitch in against the common enemy."

All too often Germany's "common enemy" has been Holland. Drug abuse is higher among the Dutch and they seem to be more sophisticated in their methods. Before a European match between Rotterdam and Werder Bremen, the Dutch used mobile telephones to tip off comrades about the German police presence in Bremen railway station. The Dutch pulled the emergency brakes and made their way on foot, or on stolen bicycles, setting fire to a railway shed en route.

Both Germany and Holland have strict data protection laws however, which makes it difficult to obtain comprehensive information in advance. Yet if the troublemakers were card-carrying neo-Nazis, passing on relevant information to the British would present few legal problems.

But there is no real evidence linking the far Right with the current hooligan scene. True, German fans screamed Heil Hitler when they rampaged through Vienna in 1994 and Hitler salutes are quite common during internationals. "Nazi symbols have a provocative role they break taboos," says Professor Volker Rittner, of the Sports Sociology Institute in Cologne, "but the point is not political — it is to get noticed and be mentioned in Monday's newspapers."

Analysis of the political attitudes of German fans shows that 20.2 per cent of supporters feel close to the neo-Nazis, 24 per cent have no politics at all and 35 per cent are in sympathy with one of the mainstream democratic parties. There have been explicit connections — the now-banned Dortmund Borussia front was politically close to the far Right and had the



Dutch riot police deal with a German supporter. Fans from both nations have a history of organised clashes

potential to cause serious disruption.

But the politics of the German terraces is no longer governed by Left or Right; the division is between those who fight and those who do not. Thomas Schneider, co-ordinator of the so-called Fan Projects (set up to bring fans closer to their clubs in the hope of civilising them), emphasises that there will not be a far Right onslaught from the Germans. "The European championship in England will not be invaded by German Nazis," he said. "It is absurd and has been completely exaggerated."

One factor may be more decisive than Herr Schneider and his social workers or snarling police dogs: many German fans are terrified of their British counterparts. "Whoever behaves like a hooligan will be treated accordingly," Herr Schneider said. "The English are the most fanatical of fans, in both the positive and the negative sense."

Law, page 37

# Supporters bring Turkish season to a violent close

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FEARS of violence by Turkish football fans at Euro 96 have been raised by the killing of a teenage supporter at the end of the country's season.

Mumin Aydin, a 16-year-old supporter of Trabzonspor, a club on the Black Sea, was shot in the mouth and then run over by a car on Sunday. His uncle, Niyazi Aydin, believed that the death followed a fight with supporters of Fenerbahce, the new league champions.

The previous week, a Fenerbahce follower had been wounded in a knife attack thought to have been carried out by followers of a rival club. Both attacks were in Istanbul.

British police were already concerned about potential hooliganism by Turkish fans,

who have earned a poor reputation in recent years. When Manchester United arrived for a game against Galatasaray three years ago, they were greeted by jeering fans with placards saying "Welcome to Hell". United supporters were attacked in their hotel by local youths and complained that they were arrested and deported by the Turkish police simply for defending themselves.

Turkey will play their three preliminary games in Sheffield and Nottingham after Euro 96 begins on June 8. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday spoke about the potential for disorder at the European championship: "Nobody can give a cast-iron guarantee that there

will be no trouble. That is impossible. But I know that a great deal of work has been done by the police in this country and their colleagues in Europe to plan as effectively as possible."

Mr Howard was speaking during a tour of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he examined a police control room at St James's Park that has 32 cameras to scan the football ground and surrounding streets. There are also five cells, capable of holding up to 75 people, underneath the east stand of the Newcastle ground. It is nicknamed "The Pink Palace" because of the colour it is painted, which is supposed to have a calming effect on supporters who have been arrested in the stadium.

# MEPs seek to make fans more friendly

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament will be asked today to endorse a proposal to counter football hooliganism by promoting fair play and holding get-togethers for rival fans.

European conservatives see the move, suggested in an advisory report by the Civil Liberties Committee, under Claudia Roth, a German Green, as an unwelcome attempt to socialise hooligans rather than crack down with the law. Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, a British Conservative MEP on the committee, said the idea was fanciful. "Dealing with hooliganism is essentially a matter for the forces of law and order."

Many of the recommendations have been adopted in Britain well ahead of the Euro 96 championship next month, expected to be attended by 250,000 foreign fans. These include segregating rival fans,

controlled ticket sales, scanners to monitor crowd movements, substantial numbers of exit gates, and banning alcohol and racist material from grounds.

Opposition from the European People's Party means that the report will fail to win adoption or will have to be substantially amended.

The report is expected to offer other suggestions which may make those familiar with the British terraces smile, such as visits by rival clubs to promote "mutual understanding". Another proposal is EU awards to teams, individuals and supporters' clubs for fair play.

The committee will urge clubs, national associations, Uefa and Fifa to fund projects involving fans and for the EU to back projects linked with the 1998 World Cup, to be held in France.

# Morals fight money for winning hand on island casino

BY PHILIP JEUNE

JERSEY is playing for high stakes over plans for the island's first casino. In one of the most divisive disputes for a generation, the community has been split by a moral dilemma that pits strongly held family values against the need to compete with rival holiday locations.

The head of Jersey's tourist authority, Senator Dick Shenton, has lodged a private member's Bill in the island's parliament seeking to establish a casino. He said: "Whether we like it or not, the world is changing and if Jersey wishes to remain competitive, it must adapt."

Mr Shenton, a committed Roman Catholic, has visited ten British casinos as part of his research and believes that the States of Jersey answered the morality questions years

ago when they allowed bookmakers to operate on the island. Since then, they have also set up a government-run lottery, with profits from the fortnightly draw going to local charities and subsidising St Helier's huge leisure centre, Fort Regent. The island's population of 84,000 rises to 115,000 in the tourist season.

Heading the opposition will be Senator Reg Jeune, Father of the House, who as president of the policy and resources committee is the island's most powerful politician. A staunch Methodist, he has agreed to submit a critical petition when the matter is debated, probably in next month. In doing so, he will be repeating a task he first carried out 31 years ago when he successfully opposed plans to allow the Hilton Hotel group to build a



Senator Dick Shenton has lodged a private member's Bill to establish a casino

hotel and casino complex at Fort Regent by presenting a petition signed by 8,500 people. A second proposal, brought in 1984, was defeated by 47 votes to 4.

The Methodist Church's social

responsibility committee instigated the current petition. Its secretary, the Rev Henry Le Ruez, says he has been heartened by the response from islanders of all ages and all walks of life. "We just felt

we had to do something," he said. Their opposition is based on five points: the effect a casino would have on Jersey's image, the type of people it might attract, the possible links with drug and alcohol

abuse and money-laundering, the possible damage to Jersey's reputation as a finance centre, and the compounding of local social problems.

He has little truck with Senator Shenton's argument that a casino has become a necessary part of the package of holiday activities that Jersey must provide if it is to compete successfully against British destinations such as Bournemouth and Southampton and nearby French resorts, such as St-Malo and Dinard.

"Why has Jersey got to be like everywhere else?" he asked. "It's uniqueness is what has made it so popular."

Observers outside the island might consider it odd that a government which permits bookmakers to operate and which runs its own lottery (established 28 years before Britain's) should still ban casinos. However, Mr Le Ruez

saw a clear distinction: "Casinos are hard gambling — you can lose an enormous amount of money very quickly. The UK is deregulating its casinos and restrictions are being reduced as time goes on. That would be bound to happen in Jersey if a casino was established here."

Fellow campaigner Michael Field, who represents the evangelical Jersey Community Church, agrees: "I am concerned about all forms of gambling. I recognise that some are frivolous but I also recognise how readily some people are susceptible to a harmless flutter becoming an addiction."

"We could mount some form of protest against betting shops but we have to be practical. A casino, however, would be a significant escalation of the whole gambling scene in Jersey."

# Man to be questioned on wartime killings

Stanislaw Chzranowski, who settled in Telford, Shropshire, after the war, is to be questioned about the murder of 50 Jews and partisans in Belorussia in 1941.

Mr Chzranowski, 74, who was a member of the civilian police force at the time, has already been questioned by Scotland Yard over his alleged role in the killings outside the town of Slonim, shortly after the Nazi occupation began. According to a BBC report, the inquiry began after his stepson John Kingston contacted police.

# Electric muggers

A woman aged 75 and her husband, 80, suffered electric shocks when they were robbed of £10 by two men armed with stun guns on a late-night train near Sandwich, Kent. Last night a man was helping police with inquiries.

# Campus choice

Exeter University's new £80 million campus in Cornwall will be at Pezance. The 120-acre site was chosen in preference to Falmouth, Newquay and Redruth. It is hoped that the building will assure the future of the town's rail service.

# Epilepsy advice

A booklet providing information and advice for women with epilepsy has been launched. Funded by the Department of Health on behalf of the Joint Epilepsy Council, it was produced to mark National Epilepsy Week, which this year focuses on women.

# Wheels of fortune

Steering wheels with airbags, costing up to £1,000 to replace, have become the favoured target for car thieves in Sheffield. A police spokesman said: "Car radios were once the main target but many now have built-in codes and are not as popular."

# Gymkhana death

A 17-year-old rider was killed when her horse broke its back during a jump and rolled on top of her. Emma Wyton, from Alwicks, Northumberland, died on Saturday during a Pony Club gymkhana near Kelso in the Scottish Borders.

# Filipinos held

Three people have been detained by police over the killing of Linda Vockins in the Philippines. Miss Vockins, 35, from Berkshire, was beaten to death on May 11 while on holiday in Puerto Galera. Four other suspects are being sought.

# Scene stealers

Scenes from a new series of BBC's *Last of the Summer Wine* may have to be reshoot after a sound tape and recording equipment were stolen from the film crew's Land Rover. Masked thieves were seen breaking into the vehicle in Shepley, West Yorkshire.

# Life for wife killer

A taxi driver who strangled his eight-months pregnant wife, dismembering and burning her body before scattering the remains, was jailed for life at Preston Crown Court. Javed Iqbal, 26, of Burnley, admitted murdering Shaheeda Bi.

# BR crash charges

The British Railways Board has been charged with breaching safety laws after a crash between two trains last September. No one was hurt when an empty train was struck by a train carrying 20 passengers near Wood Street station, east London.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "صحة من الامم"

# Labour is forced to reconsider 'tartan tax' plan

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership is considering dropping plans for a Scottish Parliament to have tax-raising powers.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, is understood to have drawn up four different options to try to counter the "tartan tax" campaign mounted by the Tories. One proposal is to postpone the tax-raising powers for four years, which would be a controversial policy reversal.

Under Labour's present plans a Scottish Parliament would have powers to raise or lower the basic rate of tax by 3p. Tony Blair, however, has become increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of the Tory campaign, which is being led by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. Mr Blair has already floated the idea that Labour would not use its tax-varying powers during the first four-year term of a Scottish parliament. But some of his colleagues are now pressing him to go further and opt for a parliament without such powers, at least in the short term.

One option being studied by the Scottish Labour Party is to have no tax-raising powers for a fixed period. Legislation

would be drafted giving the Scottish parliament an automatic right in vary taxes after this period - probably the first four-year term. This would delay the chance of tax rises specifically for Scotland until at least 2002.

Another option is to introduce tax-raising powers but to insist they could be used only with the support of a majority of two thirds, or three quarters, of MPs in the parliament. In effect this would give minority parties the chance to veto tax cuts or tax rises, operating in a similar way to qualified majority voting in Europe.

The other options being studied by Mr Robertson include: the status quo - the Scottish parliament would have tax-varying powers as originally planned; and allowing the parliament tax powers but insisting that parties must announce in their manifestos any intention to use them.

Last night a spokesman for Mr Blair's office said: "We have no plans to get rid of the tax raising powers of a Scottish Parliament." But he confirmed that the Scottish Labour Party would not use its tax powers in its first term - a move fiercely denied by Mr Blair's office when *The Times* reported it in March.

He pointed out that Mr Blair had already made clear that any party planning to raise taxes would have to have a mandate from the electorate to do so. "The Labour Party has no plans to stand on a platform of raising taxes," he said.

Labour sources tried to play down the apparent U-turn. "None of the four options diminish Labour's commitment to tax-raising powers," one source said. "But we have

all along made it clear that a power is not a tax and should not be equated."

Mr Blair regards the Scottish parliament as one of the most important parts of Labour policy, which still needs to be resolved. He is discussing with colleagues how Labour can counteract the Tories' "tartan tax" campaign.

He realises that, despite reassurances the Labour will not use the powers, the Tories will continue to exploit the issue in the run-up to the general election.

Senior Labour figures argue that if the party has made clear that the Scottish manifesto would not include tax-raising proposals, the powers are not necessary, at least in the short term.

Mr Blair has promised to introduce legislation for a Scottish parliament in the first year of a Labour government. Still to be resolved are the issues of how many Scottish MPs should sit at Westminster and what powers they should have.



Michael Meacher: "He will be reading all his articles and speeches in future"

# Magazine gaffe puts Meacher on a red alert

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL MEACHER instructed his officials yesterday not to submit policy articles in his name to the press before he has had chance to read them.

The practice is widespread at Westminster and other MPs are now likely to follow his lead. Mr Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, took action after the publication of an article in the left-wing magazine *Red Pepper* in which he unilaterally committed Labour to scrapping the jobseeker's allowance.

He had not seen the offending phrase, which was coined by Ian Willmore, his researcher, who wrote the article. Mr Willmore immediately tried to limit the damage by admitting his gaffe.

Mr Willmore, 37, a Labour councillor in Haringey, is no stranger to controversy. In 1983 he left his job at the Department of Employment after leaking a confidential record of a conversation between Michael Quinlan, the Permanent Secretary, and Sir John Donaldson,

then Master of the Rolls, on the role of the courts in industrial relations. The leak was discovered when he was working out his notice.

He moved to the trade union movement and in 1988 wrote a speech for Ron Todd, head of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which savaged Neil Kinnock's support for "yuppiefax socialism".

Labour moderates presented Mr Willmore, who was educated at Marlborough College and read theology and philosophy at Oriel College, Oxford, with 30 5p pieces as a reward for his so-called treachery. He also had a Filofax.

Mr Willmore, who has worked for Mr Meacher for a year, said that he had read an inaccurate newspaper article declaring that the jobseeker's allowance was dead. "I had no intention of trying to cause trouble, put Michael at odds with the leadership, or to effect its abolition. I got it wrong. Michael will be reading all his articles and speeches in future."



Robertson: trying to counter Tory campaign

# 'Genuine debate needed on EMU'

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN set out plans yesterday to consult widely in the City and the financial industry over moves towards a single currency.

The Shadow Chancellor emphasised the need for a "genuine debate" over monetary union, saying: "We need more evidence on all the potential costs of not joining."

His comments were part of a Labour effort to counter Tory claims that the party is committed to monetary union without giving full consideration to the consequences. He told French employers in Paris that there were potential drawbacks and "it would be complacent to wish them away".

He made clear, however, that there was no doubt over Britain's continued membership of the EU. "Britain's future is in Europe. We cannot hover half-in and half-out for ever," he said. "We cannot place ourselves halfway between a European future and isolationism."

Labour's consultation move coincided with plans announced by the Bank of England to test opinion on monetary union. Eddie George, the Governor, told MPs yesterday that the Bank would publish quarterly updates on current opinion.

He put written evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee in which he outlined further plans to organise regional workshops and discussions for the business community. Mr George, who has outlined his fears about the disadvantages of joining monetary union, told MPs that the financial markets would not necessarily lose by staying out unless people thought that Britain "was going to the dogs".

# Hamilton libel law campaign falters

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

NEIL HAMILTON'S attempt to change the 17th-century Bill of Rights looks likely to fail after MPs from all parties made their opposition clear yesterday.

This month the Lords overwhelmingly passed an amendment to alter the 300-year-old laws of parliamentary privilege, which prevent an MP being questioned in a court about statements made in the Commons. The amendment was added to the Defamation Bill after a court ruling prevented Mr Hamilton, a former Corporate Affairs Minister, from suing *The Guardian* over a "cash for questions" allegation. The newspaper's lawyers successfully argued that being unable to question Mr Hamilton on his statements would hamper the defence case.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, supported the amendment. The Prime Minister also supports it and Tory MPs are to be given a free vote.

But Labour has made it clear that when the Bill is debated in the Commons today they will not support the amendment, which would allow MPs to waive their parliamentary privilege. Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said: "It would be a great wrong to make such a significant amendment to the constitution on the back of one man."

Labour wants the matter to be referred to a joint committee of both Houses.

The Liberal Democrats have also expressed reservations. They want to give the Privilege Committee in each House responsibility for waiving immunity in court proceedings.

Mr Hamilton has led a high-profile campaign to change the Bill of Rights, writing to every peer and MP to explain that he has been denied justice. He said last night: "I am not asking for anything fantastic, just the right for an MP like me to clear their name. MPs are uniquely hobbled."

But at least 12 Tory backbenchers say they will probably oppose the amendment. They are concerned that it will look as though MPs can pick and choose when to use immunity.

Leading article, page 17

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**IN PARLIAMENT**

**YESTERDAY** in the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and Lord Chancellor's Department Reserve Forces Bill, remaining stages; Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill, all stages; in the Lords: Education Bill, second reading; School Inspections Bill, third reading; Education (Scotland) Bill, third reading; Nursery Education and Grant-maintained Schools Bill, second reading.

**TODAY** in the Commons: questions to social security ministers and the Prime Minister; Defamation Bill, second reading; Police Bill, all stages; Industrial Tribunals Bill, all stages; Employment Rights Bill, all stages; Bodmin Moor Commons Bill, stages; Bodmin Moor Commons Bill, second reading; in the Lords: London Regional Transport Bill, committee; National Health Service (Residual List) Bill, all stages; Charities (Trusts) Bill, second reading; Marriage Ceremony Bill, second reading; Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Bill, second reading.

# The most dangerous road race in the world

THERE "ain't many places", as a broad-bottomed whore remarked, where the sheriff happily takes a snapshot as the village madam congratulates a beer-soaked man who has driven through the county at 220mph. Nevada is one of them.

The Silver State Classic Challenge, hailed as "the most dangerous road race in the world", was held under a rattlesnake sun in the libertarian desertlands north of Las Vegas. Out here they spurn poker and roulette as kids' games. A real gamble is to fill your car with gas, jam a cowboy boot on the accelerator and ride Route 318 for 90 hell-bent miles.

The race, first run in 1988, encapsulates the carefree ways of the Deep West, where the people dislike being told what to do. In that spirit the dusty mining town of Ely got Nevada's state government to agree to discard traffic laws one day a year on Route 318 and let them "go for it".

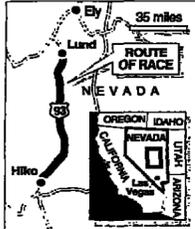
Route 318, a pot-holed, glorious ride through the purplish Egan mountains, was closed for much of last Sunday to northbound traffic. In the other direction, at high velocity, came the racing cars, some of them parachuted roadsters, others little more than normal saloons whose cylinders had been given a polish.

The entrants were mainly middle-aged speed addicts, leathery old gaffers whose bones creaked as they alighted from their vehicles to register for the run. "Race" is a misleading term. It is less of a competitive event than an excuse to drive as fast as one dares.

More than 100 cars screamed down the highway, trailing oil, smoke and shouts

## Hot on the trail of the biggest burn-up in Vegas, Quentin Letts reports from Ely, Nevada on the lure of Route 318 to speed addicts hell-bent on dicing with death

of excitement. "Biggest burn-up of rubber on the highway in half a century," reckoned Phil Henry, a Vegas businessman and inveterate speeder who invented a gadget that can detect police cars before they detect you. There was a North Carolina college professor, an Arizona businessman, a Pennsylvania woman with multiple sclerosis, plus a few



professional drivers eager to race on open highway rather than a circular track. The record for the route from Lund to Hiko was set in 1989 by one R. J. Gottlieb, who averaged 198mph.

At the Sam starting line, Fay Teal, the multiple sclerosis sufferer, checked her maps in the navigator's seat of a 1994 propane-fueled Intrepid. "Cocaine-fuelled?" queried an eavesdropper. Roland Moy, a political science don at Boone University, North Carolina, slipped on a pair of driving gloves and settled behind the

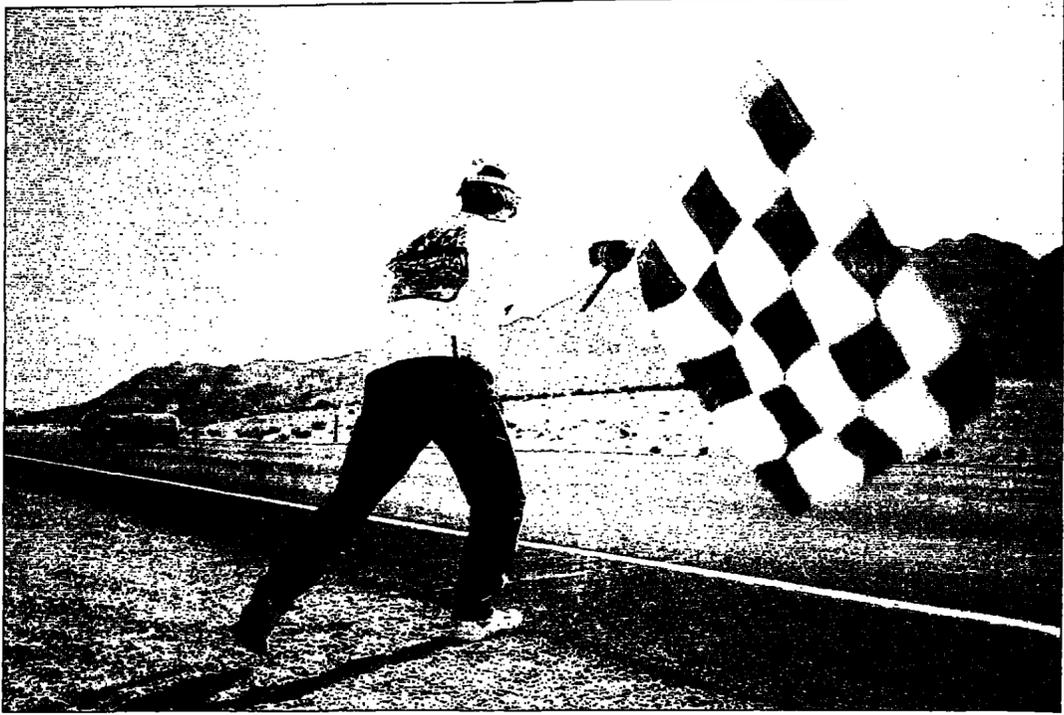
wheel of his 160mph 1973 Plymouth Barracuda. "This is more fun than John Stuart Mill," said the lean Mr Moy. Ten minutes later, in one of the most frightening moments of the day, one of the Barracuda's tyres blew at high speed and Mr Moy did well not to die.

Barlow White, former Mayor of Ely, entered in his little 1972 Opel GT and got her up to a juddering 115mph. Wayne Whytock, from cautious Salt Lake City, took the Tarpaullin off his 1965 Oldsmobile Cutlass and took it past its official maximum of 120mph.

Cowboys marshalling their herds watched as the cars shot past. A couple of vultures feasting on road kill moved out of the way too late, as did a snake which was shredded.

If you tried it elsewhere in the US there would be people shouting about public safety. But this was Nevada. The only problem for the public in eight years was the time a rancher's wife reckoned that, heck, she was going to use the highway to go to church in her 45mph pick-up, even if them racers were on it. She appeared not to notice the numerous Corvettes, Camaros and Fords which passed her in a roar.

There was also the time a volunteer race official forgot his hat and perhaps had a drink too many. Sheriffs had to restrain him from walking in to the middle of the road to wave his souvenir T-shirt at



A Chevrolet Corvette roars past the finish line in Ely, Nevada. Drivers were welcomed with a buffet and warm beer at one of the local bordellos

the cars. There were no Terry-Thomas-style rivalries among the drivers, but there have in the past been touches of *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*. Last year a \$65,000 aluminium Dodge Viper caught fire and melted into a puddle, just like a child's

dropped ice cream. The owner tilted back his cap and said "shucks".

At other times the engine of a 1956 Dodge D500 exploded after 20 minutes, a man ran out of fuel and pushed his car over the finish line, and a Ferrari Testarossa owner hit a

Nevada rock at 190mph. The rock won. Since 1988 there have been two deaths and horrific crashes. Drivers before Sunday's run were told: "Folks, the gas pedal works both ways. What you are about to do can be dangerous." At the finish line there

were pickle sandwiches and warm beer, dispensed by the ample employees of the Green Lantern, a race sponsor.

The Lantern is one of Ely's three bordellos, quite legal under Nevada law. Children mingled behind the trestle table and the matronly Lan-

tern girls asked daffy questions about the sporting endeavour and checked that everyone had a drink.

They took such pride in their buffet that one thought, if only momentarily, of the wives and girlfriends at an English cricket match tea.

## Airman jailed for sex with minor

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TOKYO

A US Air Force enlisted man was found guilty yesterday of having sex with a girl, 14, at an airbase on Okinawa, base officials said.

Senior Airman Anthony T. Williams also was convicted by a court martial of committing indecent acts with a minor, adultery and providing alcohol to minors.

He was jailed for 20 months and reduced in rank, and will receive a bad conduct discharge when his sentence is completed. Williams, whose wife was in court, was charged with rape after the victim, the American daughter of a military employee, said he had sex with her while a minor looked on at a party on Kadena Air Base last December.

In an earlier session of the court martial, which began at Kadena last week, Williams, 24, admitted all charges except rape. Prosecutors agreed yesterday to replace the rape charge, which would have carried a maximum 30 years in prison, with the lesser charge of carnal knowledge of a minor. An Air Force statement said the rape charge was dropped "at the specific request of the victim's parents". It did not elaborate.

## Clinton awaits verdict in Whitewater case

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN ANXIOUS White House yesterday awaited a verdict in the first big Whitewater trial that will have an impact on President Clinton's re-election hopes.

The Little Rock jury spent a third day weighing evidence against Jim and Susan McDougal, Mr Clinton's former partners in the Whitewater Development Corporation, and Jim Tucker, his successor as Arkansas Governor.

A guilty verdict would strongly suggest the nine women and three men believed Mr Clinton had lied in his videotaped testimony for the defence, instantly reviving the Whitewater affair as a potent election-year issue for Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate.

An acquittal would be a setback for Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor on whose long-running investigation the Republicans have pinned so much hope of regaining the White House.

The ball is in Ken Starr's court," said Bill Kristol, a top Republican strategist. "The Republicans cannot do it with-

out Starr having real successes. Real convictions and real indictments would make the issue credible to voters. Otherwise it is probably just partisan politics."

Mr Starr's prosecution team has accused the McDougals and Mr Tucker of illegally obtaining \$3 million (£1.9 million) in government-insured loans from both Madison Guaranty, Mr McDougal's failed Arkansas bank, and Capital Management Services, a collapsed investment company owned by David Hale, a former Little Rock judge.

Mr Hale, 57, has admitted defrauding his company. In return for a reduced sentence and federal protection he agreed to tell Mr Starr all he knew of financial corruption involving Little Rock's political elite during the 1980s and has helped to secure nine minor convictions.

He was the prosecution's star witness in this nine-week trial and claimed Mr Clinton, as Governor, had pressured him to make an illegal \$300,000 loan to Mrs Mc-

Dougal, \$50,000 of which was used to prop up the troubled Whitewater company.

Sam Heuer, Mr McDougal's lawyer, subpoenaed Mr Clinton to appear as a witness. During four hours of questioning at the White House, Mr Clinton denied Mr Hale's story. The defence used this videotaped testimony as the dramatic climax of its case last week, telling the jury it had to choose between the President's word and that of Mr Hale, a convicted criminal.

"In order to buy into David Hale's bill of goods you have to disbelieve the President," Mr Heuer said. "It is humiliating for the President of the United States to answer questions in a court of law but he did it to set the record straight."

George Howard, the trial judge, must decide separately over the next two weeks whether to release the film of Mr Clinton's testimony. The White House is opposed, arguing that the President's political enemies would use it against him in campaign commercials.



Clinton: has outfoxed opponents over welfare

## Republican plan filched by Clinton

Washington: Republican leaders cried foul yesterday after President Clinton outfoxed them by endorsing a radical plan that would force all welfare recipients, including single mothers, to work for their benefits (Ian Brodie writes).

They accused him of making a cynical, election-year feint to the Right by paying lip service to ideas that were at odds with his own less stringent proposals. Behind their protests lay a fear that Mr Clinton was filching one of their core issues - welfare reform - after having twice vetoed their welfare Bills.

The Republicans were especially upset that the "workfare" plan Mr Clinton professed to admire was devised by one of their own, Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin's conservative Governor.

The Wisconsin proposal would present all welfare applicants with four choices: a regular job, job-training, community service, or sheltered workshops for those incapable of performing other tasks.

## Clash of the titans sours Disney dream team partnership

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

TWO OF Hollywood's richest moguls are said to be at loggerheads over how to run the Walt Disney Company, the world's largest entertainment organisation.

Michael Eisner, the company chairman, and Michael Ovitz, his new lieutenant, are in danger of a spectacular falling-out over a string of recent public relations blunders. Sources told the *New York Post* yesterday that these included a failed bid to lure an American football team to a base near Disneyland.

The partnership came into being nine months ago, when Mr Eisner wooed Mr Ovitz, a family friend, away from the actors' agency he founded to help run the Disney company. The move came in the wake of Disney's sensational \$19-billion (£12.5-billion) buy-out of the ABC television network.

The new team was talented and experienced, but boasted two famously big egos. The two men appear to have clashed almost at once. The unnamed source told the *Post* that Mr Eisner had regretted hiring Mr Ovitz "from day one". It was Mr Ovitz, known as a flamboyant deal-maker, who reportedly urged the Seattle Seahawks to move south to a vast stadium being renovated a stone's throw from Disneyland in Los Angeles. Uproar ensued in Seattle, and the move fell through. Mr Eisner is said to have blamed his colleague for the unwelcome headlines.

Mr Ovitz has also publicly tried and failed to hire a top NBC television executive to

rescue ABC as it slips in the ratings wars. He has ruffled feathers in the Disney feature-film division by signing a multi-film contract with Sean Connery without consulting the division's top executive.

Worst of all, he appointed himself mediator in a very public row between Mr Eisner and Jeffrey Katzenberg, the former Disney Studios chief who resigned in 1994 to start his own studio with Steven Spielberg.

Far from accepting Mr Ovitz's terms, Mr Katzenberg is now suing the Walt Disney Company for \$250 million that he claims is his share of the profits from *The Lion King*. "[Ovitz] doesn't yet understand you can't run a big company like an agency," another source told the *Post*.

In the past Mr Eisner has strenuously denied rumours of tension in Disney's corporate suites. He hired Mr Ovitz as his heir apparent in a bid to reassure Wall Street after undergoing quadruple heart-bypass surgery two years ago, and he insists they work well together.

If money helps, they should. Mr Eisner is thought to have earned about \$500 million in his 12 years at Disney. Mr Ovitz's salary is not known but, although he sold his private jet to the company, he insists on reserving it for his own use.

There may, however, be another reason for the reported feud. Mr Eisner has only two secretaries. Mr Ovitz, according to *Vanity Fair* magazine, has seven.

## Careless campers set Midwest ablaze

BY GILES WHITTILL

HOT winds and tinder-dry forests created the perfect conditions for a wildfire in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains at the weekend. Careless campers did the rest.

A tent's charred remains were surrounded by a police cordon yesterday as firefighters continued to battle a fast-moving blaze that has destroyed nearly 10,000 acres of Colorado's Pike National Forest since Saturday.

No injuries have been reported, but 12 buildings have been razed and a broad swathe of hill country blackened. This latest early season fire heightens fears that 1996 could prove a more devastating year than usual in the American Midwest.

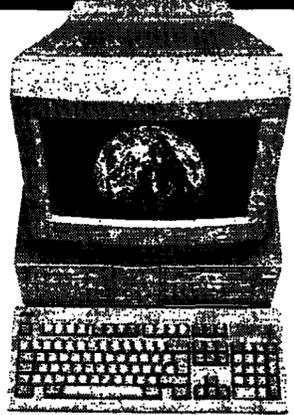
A drought has left the prairies cracked and parched months before harvest and put firefighters on high alert from the Rockies to California's coastal ranges. Visitors to national parks and forests are being urged to be even more vigilant than usual.

As the Colorado fire raged 30 miles southwest of Denver, another blaze, also blamed on visitors, destroyed 5,800 acres of Arizona's Coconino National Forest, north of Phoenix.

Earlier this month, hundreds of thousands of acres of ancient forest in Arizona and New Mexico were burnt at a time of year when melting snow usually keeps mountainsides moist and fire-resistant. One blaze spread to within yards of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, birthplace of the atom bomb.

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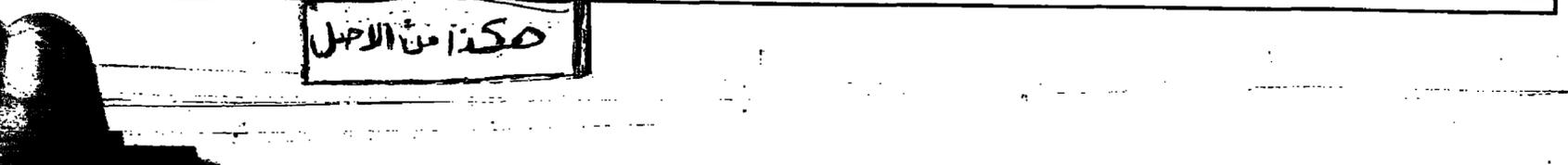
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# Likud vows to shift Palestinian funds to Gaza settlers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

**BINYAMIN NETANYAHU**, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, promised yesterday to transfer funds earmarked for the embryonic Palestinian Authority to help finance an annual investment in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if he wins the May 29 election.

The promise, reported in an interview with Israel Radio, has intensified fears among Western and moderate Arab governments that a Likud victory could mean a collapse in the Middle East peace process and a return to the violence of the 1987-93 intifada. The Likud leader said that in addition to the state funds, totalling a billion shekels (£217 million), he would encourage further settlement through the free market.

The latest opinion polls put Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, 5 percentage points ahead of Mr Netan-



yahu, but pollsters admit that there is a 4 per cent margin of error in their findings. The future shape of the West Bank and Gaza, conquered from Jordan in the 1967 war, is expected to provide a significant element in the 30-minute television debate on Sunday between the two candidates for Prime Minister. The debate could swing the balance among the 12 per cent of the electorate still undecided. West Bank and Gaza Strip rabbis have thrown their in-

fluence behind Mr Netanyahu with a signed appeal to voters which states: "We pray that [Netanyahu's] election will exalt the honour of Israel and will deepen Jewish religious education and will strengthen our hold on the land."

Mr Netanyahu, in addition to proposing a redirection of funds from the ailing Palestinian economy to Jewish settlements, told the radio that he would not respect any agreement reached by Mr Peres and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on the future of Jerusalem.

Likud maintains, despite vehement denials from Labour, that secret talks on Jerusalem have begun and that there is a deal in the making. **Flights grounded:** The Ben Gurion airport was shut down last night by angry air controllers for three hours after pirate broadcasts threatened safety by interrupting communications with the control tower.



President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan and his wife, Tseng Wen-hui, greet well-wishers yesterday after his swearing in as the first democratically elected Chinese leader

# Taiwan pledge on peace visit

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

**LEE TENG-HUI**, the President of Taiwan, pledged yesterday to "embark on a journey of peace to mainland China" in his inaugural address following his landslide election victory in March.

But Mr Lee's vow will ring hollow in Peking because of his defence of Taiwan's de facto independent status and condemnation of the mainland regime. Last night, China's State Council reiterated its opposition to an independent Taiwan. The highest governing body in Peking said it was not against the democratic political development of the Taiwanese people but opposed threats to China's territorial integrity.

Mr Lee, the first democratically elected president in Chinese history, said: "I am ready to meet the top leadership of the Chinese Communists for a direct exchange of views."

But from the viewpoint of the Chinese Communist Party, many of his phrases were seditious. In emphasising Taiwan's de facto independence, Mr Lee said: "The Republic of China has always been a sovereign state." That alone will

condemn him in Peking. He noted that disputes across the Taiwan Strait "centre around system and lifestyle; they have nothing to do with ethnic or cultural identity. Here, in this country, is a word that raises hackles in Peking! It is totally unnecessary or impossible to adopt the so-called course of 'Taiwan independence'."

These remarks contain the essence of Mr Lee's appeal to Taiwanese nationalism, especially when linked to his statement that reunification must await a democratic system on mainland China.

Despite the emphasis on a common ethnic identity, Mr Lee could not resist a barb when he noted that for years the West had regarded the Chinese "as dictatorial, feudalistic, penurious and backward", whereas the Chinese "in Taiwan have created a new land of democracy, wealth and progress ... marking a crucial departure for the Chinese people to rise again to a new height of glory."

Some day, he added, the mainland might reach the same heights.

# Kidnapped Briton 'at Pol Pot base'

FROM TOM WALKER IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

A BRITISH mine clearance expert, missing for two months in the north of Cambodia, may have been moved to Khmer Rouge headquarters south of the Thai border, the probable hideout of Pol Pot, one of the century's worst mass murderers.

Reports by Toan Chay, the Governor of Siem Reap province, of the Briton's transfer, are being taken seriously by United Nations and government sources.

Mr Toan fought a guerrilla campaign alongside the Khmer Rouge for many years and has excellent knowledge of the Maoist movement. The Khmer Rouge have yet to

make any demand in connection with Chris Howes, a 30-year-old former sapper from Bristol, and the prolonged silence is baffling onlookers in Phnom Penh.

"I am very happy to tell you that he has arrived safely at Anlong Veng, the Khmer Rouge headquarters," Mr Toan said. "It has been an arduous trip across the jungle and he could easily have been injured by a mine along the way. It has been a long journey. We are pleased to hear that he is well."

He said Mr Howes had his own hut in the Anlong Veng compound. His interpreter, Houn Hourth, who was kidnapped at the same time, was being held in separate accommodation with his Khmer Rouge cousin.

Mr Toan said he had received his information from villagers, and that he had failed to make any direct contact with the Khmer Rouge at the compound, which is hidden in dense jungle and scrub and well out of the reach of government forces.

There have been no official sightings of Pol Pot since 1988. Some say he also has a hideout in a Thai villa.

So far nine Cambodians — six soldiers, two policemen and a civilian — have been killed in the search for Mr Howes.



Howes: arduous trip through the jungle



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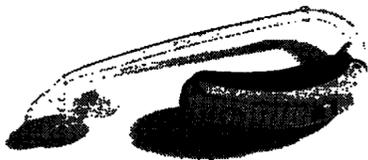
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# Saddam yields to UN's terms in oil-for-food deal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

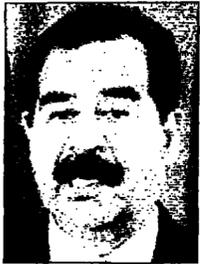
CRIPPLED by years of sanctions, Iraq yesterday accepted a United Nations "oil-for-food" deal that will allow it to start selling a limited amount of oil on world markets for the first time since the Gulf War.

The agreement was hailed by Western nations which have been trying since 1991 to persuade Baghdad to sell limited quantities of oil under international supervision to raise money and so alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people. Iraq had previously rejected UN terms for a limited sale, insisting that the embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 be lifted altogether.

Baghdad's decision to accept the deal was a tacit admission that it had given up hope of an early end to the oil embargo because of its failure to satisfy UN demands that it relinquish its weapons of mass destruction.

The accord marks the biggest change in Iraq's relations with the outside world since the Gulf War and is likely to set the pattern of UN oversight of Iraqi oil sales for years to come. Since the accord must be renewed every six months, the Security Council will have the power to turn the tap on and off.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was delighted that the resolution,



Saddam's refusal over deal caused suffering

co-sponsored by Britain, would be implemented. President Saddam Hussein's refusal to accept it for more than a year had caused unnecessary suffering to the Iraqi people, he said. He also gave a warning that life would not return to normal in Iraq until Baghdad fulfilled all its UN obligations. "It is hard to imagine this happening while Saddam remains in power."

Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the chief Iraqi negotiator, hoped that the accord would lead to a gradual lifting of the UN embargo. "It's a long journey, but we have to take the first step," he said. In a sign that Iraq is seeking a rapprochement with Syria, Dr al-Anbari told the UN that Baghdad

might eventually try to export some oil through a pipeline across Syria that has not been used for the past two decades.

Four months of negotiations came to a head when Dr al-Anbari walked into a meeting with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, carrying a letter of acceptance from Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister.

The memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the UN spelt out stringent terms for the sale of up to \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) worth of oil a year to buy food and medicine. The agreement stipulates that 30 per cent of the oil revenue will go to fund the UN Compensation Commission which is to pay reparations to British and other victims of the Gulf War. A further 13-15 per cent will be spent on aid for Iraqi Kurds.

Independent inspection agents will be appointed by Dr Boutros Ghali to verify the arrival of humanitarian supplies in Iraq and their equitable distribution. Britain hopes that the London-based Lloyd's Register will be asked to provide the agents.

In Baghdad last night, Iraqis fired guns into the air to celebrate the deal. Hundreds rushed into the streets in joy after state television and radio interrupted programmes to announce the accord.



A child refugee of the Liberian civil war waits for wheat to be distributed at the weekend in Kakata, northeast of the capital, Monrovia, where fierce clashes erupted yesterday and spread as far as the diplomatic enclave

## African mutineers face French force

Paris: France ordered troops on to the streets of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, yesterday to protect French citizens and stifle a four-day mutiny by the army that has left six people dead and dozens injured (Ben Macintyre writes). Machinegun and rocket fire echoed around the city as mutinous troops, demanding back pay and access to the national armory,

fought street battles with the guard of President Patasse. Last night French troops blocked the main road to the airport near one of the mutineers' camps as looting broke out.

The rebels have taken at least six government hostages, including the Energy Minister, the Army Chief of Staff and the president of the parliament. In a radio interview from his presidential

palace, defended by French troops, President Patasse said: "French troops are there to protect republican institutions which are the product of free and democratic elections."

The Foreign Ministry in Paris said French troops had been deployed to protect the 2,500 French people living in the country and would not intervene directly in the fighting.

## Royalist win at colony's club

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club last night voted to retain its "royal" title and patronage. It is the only significant colonial institution here to keep the word.

At the largest general meeting even its veterans could recall, the club decided to stick to the name it was granted by Queen Victoria in 1894 when she agreed to become patron.

The vote was more than 60 per cent in favour of dropping the "royal" but Hong Kong's company ordinances stipulate that for such a change 75 per cent of those voting must approve.

The decision symbolises the expatriate mood of this colony during the last four hundred or so days of British rule. "I have always defended the this red line," said an overjoyed Ian Dubin, who was wearing a blazer with the badge of a Canadian "regiment". "And tonight we stood by it again." His supporters spoke witheringly of those eager to kowtow to Peking.

It was equally obvious to many other voters — who while losing represented the majority taking part in the poll — that "royal" is becoming a liability. The Jockey Club and the Golf Club have voted to drop the title.

"It's a joke," Paul Bayfield, a club member for seven years, said. "Some of these characters are just saying 'sod you'."

Philip Bowring, a member for 12 years, added: "There are lots of freedoms worth fighting for in Hong Kong, like the Legislative Council and the Bill of Rights. The word royal is definitely not one of them. What you saw tonight was a bunch of caricature yachting voting to keep colonial privilege in a city which is about to stop being a bloody colony."

Mr Dubin, a long-time member of the club, veteran ocean racer and civil servant, defended the royalists. He spoke with contempt of those afraid of offending "our new masters. It's pure fear."

He had previously suggested that wearing Union Jack boxer shorts will be next on the forbidden list. "I entertain Chinese officials at the club," he said. "They love the place. Not one has ever said a word about the name. Royal is part of its charm."

## Bangladesh unrest crushed by loyalists

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

THE authorities in Bangladesh crushed an apparent mutiny by commanders and troops loyal to the dismissed army chief yesterday. The state-run radio appealed for calm as the country faced a fresh crisis before next month's general election.

President Biswas and Habibur Rahman, the caretaker Prime Minister, appeared on television to try to allay public fears as loyalist army units manned strategic positions in the capital, Dhaka. Tanks took up position while soldiers were deployed at radio and television stations.

President Biswas accused General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim of leading a rebellion against the civilian Government as armoured personnel carriers and tanks rolled out of the army headquarters in north Dhaka.

In his televised address to the nation, the President said

that the former army chief had been mobilising his supporters among commanders outside the capital to march troops to Dhaka in an attempt to topple the Government.

General Nasim, who was appointed to lead the 80,000-strong army last year, was dismissed after he defied orders to meet the President for talks to end a dispute between Mr Biswas and army headquarters.

Earlier, officials said that troops had also taken control of telecommunications and power stations from civilian authorities in a move that suggested a mutiny.

Tanks headed along Dhaka's main avenue to the international airport amid increasing tension in the garrison. An official announcement said General Nasim had been forced to resign. He was replaced by General Mahbubur Rahman, who is known to be a Biswas loyalist.

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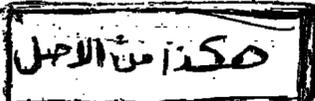
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Royalists win at colony's club



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HIGHEST EVER ADVERTISED SALARY Page 36

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MAY 21 1996

City fervour sends Railtrack shares steaming ahead

By Jonathan Prynn Transport Correspondent

Some 160 million Railtrack shares had changed hands by the close of trading, accounting for more than 20 per cent of the day's total turnover of 719 million shares.

Railtrack, which is valued at around £2.1 billion, close to the qualifying market capitalisation for entry to the FT-SE 100 index.

The fully paid shares were priced at 390p, the top end of the range set by the Government, after the institutional offer ended more than ten times oversubscribed, with £10 billion of City money chasing £1 billion of shares.

Secretary said: "I am delighted to welcome Railtrack's new shareholders on board and am confident that the private sector ownership and management will improve Railtrack's efficiency, resulting in benefits to both passengers and shareholders."

headquarters, staff said it had been a normal day apart from celebratory drinks with Bob Horton, the company chairman. "People have got their teletext sets tuned in to the share prices but apart from that it is business as usual," said one Railtrack insider.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, Energy sale hopes, London Money, Sterling, and Gold prices.

Severe cut in OECD growth forecasts

Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent in Paris

EUROPEAN growth prospects have been revised down drastically by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, even without taking account of stringent new budget deficit-cutting measures aimed at meeting the criteria for a single currency.

get their financial houses in order. Otherwise, financial markets would punish governments by imposing higher long-term interest rates, which would further hinder growth.



Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, celebrating its record £585 million profit yesterday with flight attendants Karen Robb and Paula Coxall

BA launches search for £1bn efficiencies

BRITISH AIRWAYS, which yesterday reported record annual pre-tax profits of £585 million, is seeking a further £1 billion of efficiencies by the year 2000.

Mr Ayling said BA's pay offer was one-and-a-half times the rate of inflation. Pilots will also each receive £5,000 to £6,000 in BA's £94 million profit-sharing payout to staff.

on reports that BA is near a deal with American Airlines, is today due at a board meeting of USAir, of which BA owns 24 per cent.

Mr Ayling said BA's pay offer was one-and-a-half times the rate of inflation. Pilots will also each receive £5,000 to £6,000 in BA's £94 million profit-sharing payout to staff.

Germany EMU legal challenge

By Anatole Kaletsky

A FORMER Bundesbank director said yesterday he would sue the German Government to stop European Monetary Union.

The forecast is preliminary and only gives individual predictions for the US, Japan and Germany. Figures for the UK will be published next week.

Incoming government may be forced to increase taxes

By Alasdair Murray

LABOUR could find itself forced to raise interest rates and taxes by up to 7p if it wins the next election, a leading City commentator claimed yesterday.

Mr Martin, chief economist at UBS, the broker, predicts that Labour could inherit a surging budget deficit and rising inflation. He also criticises Labour's intention to deliver higher sustainable economic growth through a higher rate of investment and economic stability.

cent-of-GDP deficit target might require tax increases or spending cuts on the scale delivered by the Budgets of 1993: perhaps equivalent to 7p on income taxes.

Europe tackles sexual harrassment at work

By Philip Bassett Industrial Editor

THE European Commission wants all medium-sized companies to appoint counsellors as part of new measures to combat sexual harrassment at work.

Britain — would be expected to oppose it. Instead, the Commission will ask the EU's social partners — Europe's main employer and trade union bodies — to negotiate a Europe-wide collective agreement on sexual harrassment at work.

say, more than 500 people should appoint a senior manager with responsibility for dealing with issues of sexual harrassment within the company.

The Commission is also to issue a new code of practice for employers on equal pay for equal value, under which employees can claim new pay levels if they can successfully show that their work is of equal value to employers as other more highly-paid workers.

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Advertisement for Nabarro Nathanson, Centre for Law in Industry, featuring a large image of a person and text describing legal services.

# Railtrack float lifts British Energy hopes

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PROSPECTS for the Government's next big sell-off — British Energy — looked more hopeful after the stock-market flotation of Railtrack.

The appetite for Railtrack, which started trading yesterday, should offer a degree of optimism to those organising the sale of Britain's modern nuclear generators amid the gathering pessimism over its likely valuation. Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Yamaichi, said: "If

Railtrack had not gone well, it would have been unlikely that British Energy would have got off the starting block. As it is, the signs are reasonable for a July flotation."

British Energy, whose marketing campaign kicks off next Tuesday, will prove a more challenging privatisation than Railtrack because of the emotive nature of nuclear energy and because of the level of debt the company will take with it.

Critics of the sale, including the Labour Party, claim that the sell-off

will form the biggest giveaway to date. Early valuations pitched the company's worth at £2.6 billion, but it is thought that the price could now fall as low as £1.5 billion.

City forecasts that will determine interest and the pricing will focus on the likely price for electricity. Pool prices, the prices of power in the wholesale market, are widely expected to fall to a lower level than calculated by BZW, the brokers advising the Government on the issue. Because nuclear generators

supply baseload electricity they are unable to influence pricing.

The flotation will be further dogged by problems over the past year at some of British Energy's stations such as Dungeness, Heysham and Hunterston B. BZW has said that the core of some of the stations which have been off-stream with technical problems are as good as new. But the closure of a station would severely affect British Energy's prospects as the company comprises just eight reactors.

The marketing of British Energy

has been sculpted by the Lowe Howard Spink advertising agency, whose clients include Tesco, Vauxhall and Whitbread.

Its TV, radio and newspaper campaign next week will accompany publication of the prospectus in June. Then, a string of Share Shops in high-street banks and other financial institutions will open to public registrations. Like Railtrack, the Government is planning to save 30 per cent of the shares for public purchase. Mid-July is the sell-off date.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Amec's chairman gets 63% pay rise

SIR Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Amec, enjoyed a 63 per cent rise in his total pay package, to £428,000, thanks to the building company's successful defence against a takeover bid from Kvaerner. Sir Alan received a total bonus of £126,340, including an £85,000 bonus for acting as both chairman and chief executive of Amec before the appointment of Peter Mason as chief executive at the beginning of this year. He also received a 9 per cent rise in basic pay, to £260,000, and a 14 per cent increase in pension contributions, to £31,200.

Sir Alan's pay increase came in spite of the company suffering a 20.5 per cent decline in its full-year pre-tax profits, to £15.9 million, in 1995, after incurring £4 million in costs from the takeover battle, in which he led the defence to Kvaerner's £360 million bid. Amec shares were marooned as low as 56p before Kvaerner made its offer, which was pitched at 100p a share. Amec shares closed last night unchanged, at 114p.

### Cheque transactions

BANK customers could benefit from a faster and more efficient service as a result of the new cheque-handling system proposed by the Government yesterday. An order laid before Parliament removes "unnecessary and outdated" restrictions on banks. Paperless settlement of cheques — or "truncation" — is already commonplace in many European countries. Under the new system, there would be no need to send cheques back to the branch of the customer who issued them.

### Oil prices bounce back

OIL prices rebounded yesterday after an early slide, taking Iraq's acceptance of a UN oil-for-food plan in their stride. Benchmark Brent blend futures for July delivery shed 79 cents, to touch \$16.75 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange, before recovering to \$17.72 as traders awaited evidence of a cast-iron deal. Jim Placke, of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, said: "What we're seeing is classic market behaviour... to discount future events and also to over-react to news, so we may already have seen much of the impact."

### Homes 'in short supply'

A SHORTAGE of homes for sale is continuing to hold back the recovery in the housing market, estate agents said yesterday. Prospective buyers were out in force in April because of fiercely competitive mortgage rates and renewed consumer confidence, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said after its monthly survey of the housing market. However, too many vendors were waiting for prices, which continued to edge up, to rise more steeply before putting their homes on the market, creating a shortfall of properties, it said.

### SIB supervision head

THE Securities and Investments Board, the City watchdog, has seconded David Pritchard, group treasurer of Hill Samuel since 1994 and a senior Lloyds TSB executive, as head of supervision of standards in its markets and exchanges division for two years. It supervises and sets standards for seven recognised investment exchanges, the London Clearing House and a number of market service providers. It expects to supervise Crest when it starts operations in July, and is also the focal point for SIB's international work.

### Lauder's telecoms aim

RONALD S. LAUDER, heir to the Estée Lauder cosmetics group, yesterday launched a telecommunications company, called RSL Com Europe, and announced buying the German and French operations of Sprint, the third-largest US long-distance carrier. Sprint had to sell them to join Global One, a venture with France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom. RSL is seeking custom from small and medium-sized businesses in Britain and continental Europe, where it aims to build a base before deregulation in 1998. *Scout of success, page 29*

### New Jefferson chief

JEFFERSON SMURFIT GROUP, the paper and packaging company based in Dublin, has appointed a new chairman and chief executive for its Irish and British operations. Dublin-born Peter Webster, who has been with the group for 18 years and was Smurfit Ireland/UK's regional operations director, succeeds Patrick Wright, who, earlier this month, was made president and chief operations officer of the group. In April, the Jefferson Smurfit Group announced record pre-tax profits of Ir£420 million for its global operations.

### US Can turns to Wales

US CAN, the American aerosol manufacturer, is establishing a £30 million, 200,000 sq ft production factory in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. This is the company's first investment in Europe and it will create 120 jobs when production begins next year. US Can, which has 30 plants across North America, is a leading supplier of aerosols in the US, producing 50 per cent of all aerosol cans sold there. It is keen to tap the £3.5 billion European market.

### Aberdeen Trust boost

ABERDEEN TRUST, the investment manager, has lifted its interim dividend 42.8 per cent to 1p, after a 20 per cent profit rise to £3.39 million in the six months to the end of March. The dividend will be paid on July 17. Funds under management doubled to £2.81 billion year-on-year, benefiting from improved global stock markets and a stronger US dollar. The trust has entered into an alliance with Phoenix Home Life of the US, lifting its balance sheet by \$37.5 million.

## Spotlight on issue of child labour

FROM JANET BUSH IN PARIS

THE US and Europe seem to have struck a deal to set up a working group to look at the issue of trade with countries that condone child labour, a big source of disagreement at the jobs summit in France earlier this year.

In return, the US has promised it will play its part to make progress in negotiations towards a multilateral agreement on investment designed to bring down barriers to international investment.

US officials at the annual meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, starting here today, said that they had won agreement for the establishment of the working party at the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December.

Britain had hoped that the trade and labour standards question would be kept away from the WTO and examined more narrowly by the International Labour Organisation.

It has consistently opposed examining the question of whether some developing countries are winning a greater share of world trade by employing low labour standards.

It has argued that industrialised countries must compete by liberalising their own markets, not penalising others. It is suspicious that America and France, which have pushed the trade and labour standards issue, will use it as an excuse to reintroduce protectionism by the back door.

Britain appears to have lost this argument. However, the US seems to be throwing its weight behind efforts to tie up a "state of the art agreement" on international investment in time for next year's OECD meeting in May.

The drive to lower hurdles to international investment is a matter that the European Union has been pushing for.



Michael Heseltine at the Forbidden City in Peking yesterday, where British businessmen were promoting trade

## Rolls-Royce joint deal in China

ROLLS-ROYCE and Aviation Industries of China have formed a joint venture to produce aircraft engines (Oliver August writes). The deal is the first to come out of a trade tour of the Far East led by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Based in Nian, the venture will produce components for Rolls-Royce engines, including the 715, which is being considered for Avic's 100-seat regional aircraft. A new plant will eventually employ 600 people and produce \$20 million a year in sales.

Gordon Gurr, president of Rolls-Royce China, said: "We have a plan that by the year 2000, the Year of the Dragon, China will be responsible for complete modules." Mr Heseltine said the deal "is an indication of the tremendous industrial potential that exists in the future, to the benefit of both countries".

In November the company acquired a partner in China's developing power market.

# National Home Loans lifts profits but fails to cut rates

BY SARA MCCONNELL

NATIONAL Home Loans Group, the centralised mortgage lender, yesterday posted pre-tax profits of £32 million for the half-year to March 31, an increase of 34 per cent over the first half of the previous year, and restored the interim dividend at 1.1p a share.

But the group held out no immediate hope of a rate cut for those among its 30,000 borrowers still paying a stan-

dard rate of 10.65 per cent. The Halifax's standard rate is 7.25 per cent.

Jonathan Perry, chairman of NHL, said its rate was "not remotely outrageous". Mr Perry argued that many borrowers paying this rate would not have been able to get loans elsewhere because they did not satisfy traditional lending criteria. Centralised lenders gained market share during

the housing boom of the late 1980s by offering self-certification mortgages, where borrowers vouched for their own income, or low-start loans, where interest is rolled up. Many borrowers subsequently found themselves in debt as interest rates rose and house prices fell.

More than half of NHL's 30,000 borrowers have been in arrears at some time and many are in negative equity. The higher rate represents the higher risk posed by these borrowers, said Mr Perry, and was necessary to balance and rebuild the company.

NHL was forced to withdraw from the mortgage market in 1991 and only re-entered 18 months ago, after a financial restructuring. It now sells mortgages through Homeloans Direct,

its mortgage lending company.

HL is concentrating on niche markets, such as loans to housing associations and to borrowers looking to rent out properties as investments. It has to date received 3,775 applications totalling £173 million. Offers issued and applications in progress total 2,141, with a value of £98 million.

The group says it is still making losses on the National Home Loans Corporation mortgage book, which contains the group's loss-making loans, although provisions for bad debts in the six months to March 1996 were £4.2 million, compared with £6.5 million in the same period of last year. A total of 342 homes were repossessed in the first six months to March this year, only slightly down on the same period of 1995.

## Canadians agree ERF takeover

ERF Holdings, Britain's last remaining manufacturer of heavy trucks, seems set to slip into overseas ownership with an agreed bid from Western Star Trucks, the Canadian group (Philip Pangalos writes).

Western Star already controls about 52.4 per cent of ERF's equity and its recommended cash offer values each ERF share at 275p and the whole group at £27.4

million. The offer also carries a full share alternative and a loan note alternative.

ERF, which employs 990, has nearly 10 per cent of the UK heavy truck market.

Peter Foden, ERF's chairman and chief executive, said: "We will still be a British manufacturer, and jobs will probably be more secure in the long term. The proposal is attractive for ERF shareholders

and should secure a dynamic future for ERF and its employees."

ERF's pre-tax profits fell to £1.82 million in the year to March 30, from £2.28 million last time. Turnover from continuing operations rose by 8 per cent, to £217.6 million (£202.4 million). A second interim dividend of 2.5p makes a 4.5p total payout. ERF shares rose 7p, to 280p.

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Belgium Fr	30.70	48.40
Canada \$	2.178	2.018
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.33	9.73
Finland Mk	7.72	7.07
France Fr	8.27	7.82
Germany DM	2.48	2.27
Greece Dr	383.00	358.00
Hong Kong \$	12.34	11.34
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.900	4.800
Italy Lire	2453.00	2298.00
Japan Yen	178.30	180.30
Malta	0.587	0.532
Netherlands Gld	2.748	2.518
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.14
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	249.50	231.00
S Africa Rd	7.08	6.29
Spain Pta	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	10.38	10.26
Switzerland Fr	2.03	1.85
Turkey Lira	120878	112878
USA \$	1.839	1.479

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□ Pru faces questions on bonuses □ Civil penalties the key to stock market crime □ The stags have their day

# The Prudent line on perks

WHAT fun to see the mighty and normally po-faced Prudential hoist with its own petard. Whereas the country's biggest institutional investor normally fights in the front rank in any assault on bonuses that overly reward management, the Pru has instead been "outed" by PIRC, the pensions pressure group that is equally hawkish on executive pay, for planning to be too generous to its executives.

Next Wednesday shareholders in the Pru will vote on the new bonus scheme, which pays out to executives if the company's performance is less than average. That is one way of looking at it: the scheme kicks in if the institution manages to scrape into 59th position among FT-SE 100 stocks. Executives must be incentivised with free shares for a mediocre performance, or they might go elsewhere.

This is the hawkish view. The Pru is one of more than a dozen companies, several of them household names, that have been identified by PIRC as planning overly generous bonuses for executives. The latter has drawn up five guidelines that bonus schemes should obey. First, they should be long-term, over five years ideally, rather than offering executives an immediate smash-and-grab raid for what might prove to be an unsustainable performance.

Second, they should require some capital commitment from the executives, rather than have shares awarded free. They should be transparent, easily locatable within the accounts and comprehensible to the ordinary investor. The comparators against which performance is measured should be real ones, taking in companies in the same sector for example rather than broad generalisations such as the FT-SE 100 or the market as a whole. Finally, the scheme should go from the top to the bottom of the company.

Judged against these criteria, the Pru's scheme falls down badly. But it is possible to be a little more analytical, and add a sixth. This is that bonus schemes should be so constructed to weight as much of the payout as possible at the top end of the performance curve. The Pru pays out relatively modestly at the bottom end, if the shares come in at 59th position or a little above; only substantial out-performance brings in the rewards. By contrast, a scheme that paid out massively if the shares ended in 50th position or

only a little higher would be a true reward for mediocrity. As important is the extent that total remuneration is split between straight salary and bonus — is the latter the jam on top of an already generous salary?

A further irony is that the Pru's plans will probably be voted in next Wednesday, through the usual institutional inertia. With some notable exceptions, fund managers on good six-figure salaries tend to be muted in their criticism of boardroom fat-cattery. Some fear that a principled stand might lead to embarrassing questions about their own pay and perks.

## How to tackle insider dealers

THE next time your house is burgled, it will be little comfort that the policeman who arrives some hours later to offer you counselling and not much else probably knows the identity of the intruder. Burglaries tend to be the work of the same local faces, and the police know them well. The difficulty is in making



the charge stick. Likewise, insider trading. The same old names, fringe operators and small regional brokers, tend to be involved in case after case. The Stock Exchange knows well who they are. The way that the law is drafted makes it almost impossible to translate suspicion into criminal charges and conviction.

Last year 1,500 examples of suspicious trading were identified, but just 43 were passed on to the prosecuting authorities. The exchange plans to bring in, this summer, "artificial intelligence" — computers, to you and me — to correlate share price movements and identify dubious trading patterns. Without wholesale redrafting of the law, the effect is

likely to be more suspicion but not many more prosecutions.

The problem with insider trading law is that it requires positive proof of intention to commit the crime, rather than merely allowing that intention to be deduced from the circumstances. Brokers buy and sell shares all the time, and any purchase, however fortuitous, can be passed off as the normal course of business.

The exchange's other planned innovation, the imposition of temporary halts on dealing after sharp and unexplained share price movements, is the sort of power that any well-equipped stock market should possess. It is, however, doubtful how effective it would be against insider trading when the rogue trader has taken a position well before the news starts to leak. It might even be counter-productive, locking in innocent investors who should rightly have the chance to sell if a price starts to tumble.

The only effective counter to insider trading is to make it a civil offence, so lowering the burden of proof required, and one carrying heavy financial penalties. This is how they do

things on Wall Street, and it is the preference of both the exchange and the Securities and Investments Board.

## A one-way rail track

BY the end of the first day's dealing in Railtrack more than 10 per cent of private investors going through one share shop had stashed the issue and taken their profit. More than one investor in ten, therefore, has not thought it worthwhile to hang around for the generous 18 per cent return that has been cynically provided for the shares over the next nine months.

How many of the remaining 90 per cent will still be in after that, rather than taking the easy way out once that return has been gathered in? And how, as ministers and advisers pose smiling for the inevitable photo-opportunities celebrating the "success" of the penultimate privatisation, can this be expected to widen and deepen share ownership?

Clare Short may be becoming increasingly incoherent on the

subject, as her enemies within New Labour claim, but she has got one thing right. If you price something cheaply enough, it will sell. You attract the public with a built-in discount to full value, and this interest from the stags keeps the City short of the shares, ensuring a scramble for them once trading starts — and a profit for those same stags. The City is buying because it is prepared to take the risk of tighter regulation under Labour. Wait for a further rush of private selling once the interim dividend has been paid next February.

## French connection

JEAN-CLAUDE PAYE may have been a dutiful servant of the OECD for the past 12 years but he is also a scion of the French political establishment. He has much in common with Michel Camdessus, head of the IMF. Both preside over organisations whose ambit goes far beyond Europe. Both purport to publish independent economic forecasts. Both have had to admit that the drive towards Maastricht is destroying growth. Ask either if the single currency can go ahead and they cannot bring themselves to express their real doubts. Loyalty is an admirable virtue, but are we really getting the analysis we deserve on the future of Europe?

# Cancer drug speculation sees British Biotech soar

By Eric Reguly

BRITISH BIOTECH, the darling of the high-flying biotechnology sector, seemed well on its way to becoming a £2 billion company yesterday after investors pushed up the shares in anticipation of positive clinical results from its most important cancer drug.

The City believes that British Biotech, whose finance director is James Noble, will probably announce this morning that the latest trials of Marimastat have been strong enough to warrant the start of so-called Phase 3 trials. The speculation is that the results from the Phase 2 trials will show that the drug, designed to halt the spread of cancerous tumours, is effective in a low-dose form and that the side effects detected in previous trials have not become any more severe.

Historically, a drug that enters Phase 3 trials has about a 60 per cent chance of coming to market. In valuing British Biotech shares, analysts must estimate the size of the market

that Marimastat can address, the drug's potential penetration of that market, the sales price and the revenue decline once it loses its patent protection. Valuations vary considerably, but some brokers think that the company could be worth as much as £40 a share if today's results indicate that Marimastat will eventually go into commercial production.

If the results are negative or inconclusive, the shares could plummet. One investment firm expects the shares to fall to about £15 if Marimastat does not proceed to Phase 3 trials. There is no real "floor" price because the company has no earnings and no products on the market.

British Biotech shares closed at a record £30.30, up 185p, valuing the company at £1.76 billion, or about £120 million more than its market capitalisation on Friday. Volume was almost 1 million shares, against the normal daily trading of 3,000 shares. The shares have risen by more than 600 per cent in the past 12 months.

One analyst said he was keen on the company because of the broad market potential of Marimastat. The drug is designed to slow the spread of nine different tumours, ranging from ovarian tumours to head and neck tumours.

If British Biotech shares soar again today, the entire sector is likely to rise with it. A year ago, the market capitalisation of the seven quoted biotechnology companies was about £1 billion. There are now a dozen quoted biotechnology companies, with a combined market capitalisation of about £4.5 billion.



Noble: announcement close

## Savoy aims for hotel restoration

By Alasdair Murray

SAVOY Hotel yesterday announced a £60 million boost to capital expenditure plans in an attempt to restore the company's historic hotels.

The company also confirmed it was suing Simmons and Simmons, a firm of lawyers, over the £9 million sale of the Lancaster hotel in Paris to a French consortium.

The dispute centres on the use of an unsecured promissory note as part-payment for the deal. The £4.1 million note is not due to be redeemed until 1998.

Ramon Pajares, managing director, told the annual meeting that the investment was necessary as many rooms were not up to modern standards. But Sir Ewen Fergusson, chairman, said that there would be a fall-off in occupancy levels as rooms were closed for repairs.

Alex Bernstein and Gerry Robinson are to join the board as Granada's representatives after the resignation of Sir Rocco Forte and Sir Anthony Tennant.

## Acquisitive Seton in good health

By Eric Reguly

SETON HEALTHCARE yesterday announced its strongest profits since its flotation in 1990 and said it would continue making acquisitions in the British market.

Seton, which specialises in wound care, infection control and orthopaedics products, reported pre-tax profits of £16.4 million, up 52 per cent, on turnover of £84.9 million, up 38 per cent. About £9 million of the turnover gain came from acquisitions.

Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 24.6p. A final dividend of 5.5p is to be paid on July 31, making the total dividend 7.9p, up 14 per cent.

The company said that economies of scale pushed operating margins from 19.1 per cent to 20.9 per cent.

Roger Humphreys, finance director, said that Seton will probably make as many acquisitions this year as it did last year. In 1995-96, it spent about £51 million on purchases, including Gastrocote and Simpla Plastics.

7.50PM: MRS DEAN DISCOVERS LIGHTNING HAS KNOCKED HER CHIMNEY POTS OFF.

8.05PM: OUR BUILDER KNOCKS HER SOCKS OFF.

Who says lightning never strikes the same place twice?

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Taste of trouble at the Savoy

HUNGRY shareholders attacked the Savoy Hotel Group at its AGM yesterday - for its poor performance on the buffet table. The first complainant from the floor sniffed at past AGM repast, saying it was "too little, and served too slowly... the waiter was besieged as if by a swarm of locusts". After an apology from Sir Ewen Ferguson, chairman, a former Forte shareholder announced that the canapés were far worse under Sir Rocco at that company's annual meetings. Admitting that "flow of food" had been a problem in the past, Rocco Pajares, Savoy Group managing director, said: "This year there was more quantity and more waiters."

Surfing UBS

A RATHER sad profile is piecing together of Bill Martin, the UBS chief economist who took six weeks out of his life to study the Labour Party economy. The 45-year-old economist, ranked fourth in the UK, has a BA in social studies from Exeter University. He worked for eight years at the DTI and for two years at the Cabinet Office, Central Policy Review Staff. The father of two teenagers, who lives in Billerica, says he plays music on full volume to relax - "anything from rock to baroque". Having done nothing but work on his project for almost two months, he is looking forward to some surfing - on the Internet.



"Don't know much about their drugs but their shares have done me good"

Note of surprise

JOHN BAKER attended his first press conference as chairman of the English National Operatic Society yesterday. Perhaps better known as chief executive of National Power, Baker said he was a touch surprised when asked to join the ENO board. "After all, when a business asks one to join a board, you wonder what they have hidden away," he whispered.

Tea returns

THE Halifax Building Society may be breaking with its mutual past by becoming a bank but there are some traditions it is happy to preserve. At last year's AGM, there was no tea, as extra time was needed to discuss the society's conversion plans. But yesterday the honourable practice of taking tea was resumed, with those attending at Halifax's Victoria theatre repairing upstairs for refreshment.

Negative feeling

A ROW has erupted in Stockton-on-Tees after the council's admission that it is paying Lord Lichfield more than £10,000 to photograph the area for a calendar. The council's City Challenge department is confident that local companies will cover the cost of the two-week shoot, but Stocktonians are dubious. Stephen Smailes, a Tory councillor, brands the commission "wasteful". He says: "We have enough professional photographers in this town who could have done the job for a lot less money."

MORAG PRESTON

Major's stance is out of step with British business

Key companies and unions are changing their tune on European issues, says Philip Bassett

John Major is expected today to emphasise to Britain's business leaders the importance of the Government's stance on Europe, not just on the beef industry, after yesterday's Brussels decision. More significantly for business generally, the Prime Minister will discuss the importance of maintaining the Government's opt-outs on the single currency, and the minimum job standards of the European social chapter.

But before Mr Major's speech to the Confederation of British Industry's annual dinner, employers will join with senior European officials and trade union leaders to take a rather different view of British business in Europe: a Europe built on co-operation, where minimum work standards are accepted and are built on social partnership between business and its employees.

Sir Brian Nicholson, the CBI president, will use his own speech to mount a strong defence of British business interests in Europe. He will attack those advocating European withdrawal and will emphasise the importance of maintaining competitiveness in European economic and constitutional moves.

In addition to the Prime Minister's statements, the CBI leader will reject the idea that all regulation from Europe is unhelpful and a burden on business. He will call instead for both the right kind and the right mix of regulation, aimed at improving competitiveness across Europe.

But earlier in the day, key business and European leaders will be taking a rather different line, an approach which reflects the characteristically more pragmatic line from business. At a conference organised by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Rover will spell out its commitment to minimum standards, to co-operation and to partnership. Local government leaders will do the same.

For shareholders, Anne Simpson, PIRC director, will emphasise the importance to shareowners of a "high performance" workplace, while the head of the European Commission's social affairs directorate, Allan Larsson, will emphasise the centrality of the partnership approach in Europe.

For the unions in the UK, John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, will set out how he sees the relationship with a future government. For Labour, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will underline that all this will be central to the way an incoming Labour government will operate.

Last week, the Bank of England set out its preparations for a single European currency, which it is making whether or not Britain eventually decides to join. Similarly, the EEF engineering employers made clear the practical line many British companies are taking on the introduction of European works councils (EWCs), in



Car care: Rover will spell out its commitment to minimum job standards

spite of the Government's social chapter opt-out.

The pragmatism reflected in these approaches will be demonstrated today on what is for many businesses the still-difficult area of minimum standards at work. For business, one of the key impacts of a possible future Labour government will be its adherence to minimum standards - a minimum wage in the UK and the abandonment of the Government's opt-out on employment affairs, instead signing the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

In the belief that a Labour government is now a genuine possibility, business is looking hard at more co-operative ways of working. And increasingly, too, it is not finding the view as appalling as had been forecast.

Faced with ferocious competition from Japanese inward investors like Nissan, Honda and Toyota, Rover - now German-owned - will today emphasise how important to the competitiveness of the business it sees its pioneering partnership agreement with the TGWU, which offers a guarantee of job security in return for a range of work flexibilities.

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, accepts that the co-operative tone of today's move is a very far cry from the largely combative note his and other UK unions used to strike - strike usually being the operative word.

"The trade unions, and the TGWU in particular," he says, "have to have a role in making a contribution towards global competitiveness." Such language used to see other union leaders attacked and abused by their union colleagues. Not any more. "The argument is different now," says Mr Morris. "The world has changed. We're not in competition with the factory next door. We're in competition with the factory 10,000 miles away."

Mr Morris now talks the language of international competitiveness with a will. He now talks of how trade unionism used to be in the UK, that

and would like to use his fortune to work the same magic on one or two of the grand old Danube hotels. Mr Lauder has been able to change careers at will and build a portfolio of diverse businesses because he was never the centre of attention at Estée Lauder. It was Leonard, his older brother, who ended up devoting his life to the group. Leonard was pressed into service by his mother, Estée, as a child and became president in 1972; he is now chairman and chief executive.

Ronald served as an Estée Lauder marketing executive for 17 years before becoming Assistant Defence Secretary for European and Nato policy in 1982. In 1987 he became Ambassador to Austria, and

"we mistook the enemy", and accepts that the conflict model of trade unionism, given both still-high unemployment and high levels of insecurity for people in work, offers little to employees or employers.

Instead, what he and the TGWU - backed by the TUC, which is running its own conference in the City on Thursday on the parallel theme of stakeholding - now offer employers is agreements: agreements which increase companies' profitability and competitiveness, and which offer minimum standards on a range of employment issues, including pay, hours and job security.

Unions led by the TGWU are now bargaining with companies on these points. At national level, Britain's principal business bodies are engaged in a round of delicate talks with the TUC on minimum standards agreements.

The unions' pitch on minimum standards has behind it the belief that companies would be better adopting baseline employment practices rather than see them imposed either by a future Labour government, or by Brussels - either now or once any future Labour government has signed the social chapter.

While some employers are clearly being drawn to this line, others remain wary, glancing over their shoulder at the legislative flow still coming from Brussels on social issues. Though Conservative ministers insist that the flow has been staunch because of Britain's opt-out, some new employment law is still coming forward.

For instance, under the first EU social affairs council of the Italian presidency, employment ministers from across Europe finally reached agreement - by qualified majority voting, pulling in the 62 out of 87 votes necessary to secure it, with the UK and Portugal opposing - on the draft directive on so-called "posted" workers.

First introduced in 1991 in an effort to end social dumping - companies shifting work to lower-cost areas of production - the directive will set minimum pay rates, hours of work and leave for employees sent to work temporarily in another EU member state. The agreement will be formalised next month, with implementation in all member states, including the UK, in three years.

Political agreement has also been reached between all EU member states bar the UK, which exercised its opt-out on the parental leave directive, setting minimum standards for both men and women. It includes the right to up to three months' unpaid leave following the birth of a child, protection from dismissal and the right to return to the same or equivalent job. Implementation will be in two years, in all EU states except Britain while the opt-out continues. However, employees of UK companies working in any other EU member state will be covered by the directive.

Such moves are precisely the kind of measures from Europe which the Prime Minister intends to resist. A Labour government would clearly mean business adapting to a different approach to Europe. But even in advance of the next general election key companies in Britain are shifting ground towards minimum job standards, towards co-operation and towards partnership.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Relax, let the bears growl

Back in mid-February, when the Dow Jones industrial average first poked its head above 5,600, I wrote in this column that Wall Street could be set for a temporary correction, but that long-term investors should hold on to their shares. Wall Street was likely to go well above 5,600 before it fell into a long-dreaded bear market.

I also argued that, despite the widespread expectations of an imminent crash on Wall Street, American shares at 5,600 were a safer bet than the Japanese shares at 20,900 on the Nikkei index or Hong Kong stocks at 11,300. Most British fund managers, by contrast, were expecting a collapse on Wall Street (and a setback for shares in London), while they were wildly enthusiastic about the prospects for capital gains in the Far East.

Since British fund managers have usually been wrong in reading international investment trends, and especially trends on Wall Street, it seemed reasonable to look for reasons why they might again be mistaken. Such reasons ranging from the political threat from China to the high valuations of Japanese shares.

Three months later, someone who invested in this contrarian spirit would have experienced mixed results. The main message - that the spring correction would not mark the end of the US bull market - seemed to be vindicated yesterday when the Dow finally burst through 5,700. The London market has, as usual, shadowed the Dow and has risen about 1.5 per cent since mid-February. Hong Kong, too, has performed roughly as expected: the Hang Seng index is still floundering well below its February high and is 10 per cent lower than the all-time record it hit in early 1994. Thus, anyone who invested in Hong Kong at the height of the emerging market craze (and that includes most British institutions) would still be showing a loss, while anybody who bought US equities would be 42 per cent ahead.

Tokyo, on the other hand, has this year defied bearish predictions and repaid the faith of the British institutions. The Nikkei average is now 5 per cent higher than it was three months ago. In the medium term, however, the huge British bet on Tokyo has proved a poor one, since Japanese shares are still worth only about half what they were in 1990. In fact, an investment in Japanese shares to have done better than a similar investment in London or Wall Street, the shares would have had to be bought in 1984 or before - and even then, the small relative gain in Japan would have been due entirely to currency movements.

The question now is what may happen in the period ahead and where the institutions will see fit to invest our savings. The latest Merrill Lynch survey of big fund managers published two weeks ago showed the usual inverse correlation between the views of the supposed experts and market reality on Wall Street. The survey, conducted in the first week of May, showed the British bears growling more fiercely than ever. The last time the British institutions were as gloomy as this about Wall Street was in November 1994: the great bull market started exactly a month later. This time, too, Wall Street behaved on cue. The market bottomed out on May 9, the day the gloomy Merrill Lynch survey was published. It rose by 5 per cent in the next ten trading days.

As long as British and other foreign investors remain so sceptical about Wall Street, US shares (as well as the dollar) will probably continue to move up. Bearish fund managers could be a huge potential source of new money once they succumb to the American dream. And the British institutions, despite their persistent misjudgments, control more pension fund savings than the rest of Europe put together.

Once you start hearing from Wall Street that "the British are coming" (or, better, that the Japanese are coming) you will know it will soon be time to get out. My hunch, however, is that the British actuaries are a stubborn lot. More months will pass before they are sucked into this bull market. And as long as the experts remain bearish, individual investors can relax; the experts will continue to be proved wrong.

Eric Reguly meets a multi-talented heir to the Lauder billions

Rich man with scent of success



Liz Hurley: cosmetics house launched her model career

Ronald S. Lauder is one of those rare executives who moves frequently, and seemingly effortlessly, between the worlds of business, politics and public service. An heir to Estée Lauder, the make-up, skin-care and fragrance empire that practically invented the "hope in a jar" concept and gave Elizabeth Hurley her highest-paying job, he has been a US Ambassador, a Pentagon adviser and a New York City mayoral candidate.

His latest incarnation is chairman and controlling shareholder of RSL Communications, the telecoms company that yesterday launched its British service and announced the purchase of the French and German operations of Sprint, America's third largest long-distance carrier. Mr Lauder, 52, has high hopes for RSL - he says he wants to make it the world's largest privately owned telecoms company but he clearly has no interest in letting it dominate his business schedule.

There are too many opportunities elsewhere, especially in Eastern Europe. Central European Media Enterprises, his television company in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Slovenia, is expanding rapidly and needs attention, and he wants to build on his reputation as the patron of high living in liberated Budapest.

There he spent more than \$20 million to transform the Gundel restaurant from what he calls "a Wimpey's into the Maxim's of Eastern Europe",

and would like to use his fortune to work the same magic on one or two of the grand old Danube hotels.

Mr Lauder has been able to change careers at will and build a portfolio of diverse businesses because he was never the centre of attention at Estée Lauder. It was Leonard, his older brother, who ended up devoting his life to the group. Leonard was pressed into service by his mother, Estée, as a child and became president in 1972; he is now chairman and chief executive.

Ronald served as an Estée Lauder marketing executive for 17 years before becoming Assistant Defence Secretary for European and Nato policy in 1982. In 1987 he became Ambassador to Austria, and

Lauder name allows Ron Lauder to do virtually anything he wants

in 1989 ran against David Dinkins and Rudolph Giuliani for mayor of New York. His wealth, his famous name and his free-enterprise ideals won him a blaze of publicity but little else. Steve Forbes, the heir to the Forbes media fortune, used the same losing formula in this year's presidential race.

The Lauder name allows Ron Lauder to do virtually anything he wants. The company is considered glamorous and well-respected: it is a textbook case on how to build and sustain an upmarket image and transform it into a world brand. Estée Lauder began to sell internationally in the early 1960s - Harrods was its first foreign outlet - and

overseas sales now account for half or more of its business. Mr Lauder is chairman of the international arm.

Estée is not, as legend went, a countess who grew up rich in some Habsburg castle. She was born Josephine Ester Mentzer in Queens, New York, of a Hungarian mother and Czechoslovakian father and lived under a hardware store. With the help of an uncle, she invented a face cream that she called Super-Rich All Purpose Cream, and convinced a couple of salons to allow her to use it on their clients. Before long she had invented a range of cosmetics and, in 1946, she convinced Saks Fifth Avenue, the department store, to sell her products at its beauty counters.

Next came a perfume and bath oil called Youth Dew, which at one point was the world's best-selling fragrance. Estée always sold to well-heeled women who could afford to pay a premium for image. When companies such as L'Oréal introduced more expansive ranges, Estée Lauder simply raised its prices. As part of a tax and succession-planning effort last year, Estée Lauder joined the stock market in a flotation that valued the group at almost \$3 billion.

It is not known how much Ron Lauder is worth, but the family still owns 88 per cent of Estée Lauder's equity. That would make Mr Lauder something close to a billionaire. With his wealth and company name behind him, it appears Mr Lauder has many more careers to come.

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Demand for foreign goods boosts imports

# Japanese see trade surplus fall to £2bn

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade surplus with the rest of the world in April fell sharply to ¥320.66 billion (£2 billion), a decline of two-thirds from a year earlier. It was the seventeenth consecutive month of decline in the trade surplus and was due largely to continued growth in Japan's appetite for imports. Robust demand for foreign cars, semi conductors and

office equipment, including computers, helped to boost imports 30.9 per cent. Japan's exports in April rose 5.1 per cent, a relatively slow pace, reflecting the stagnant economic growth of Japan's main trading partners.

The Finance Ministry said the main factor in April's sharp fall in the surplus was the 95.5 per cent rise in meat

imports after the Paris embargo on foreign pork and beef.

The ministry reported the gap in the global trade surplus was down 65.5 per cent from a year earlier, falling to a level lower than many economists had forecast. The politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States plunged 55.6 per cent to 172.09 billion yen, while the trade surplus with the European Union fell 52.2 per cent.

Car imports continue to show strong growth, while exports of Japanese cars were down 5.3 per cent. This was due, in part, to weak economic growth in the US and Europe, which reduced demand for cars, but analysts said a more significant factor is the rapid increase in production in Japan's overseas car plants.

A Finance Ministry official said: "The surplus is expected to remain on the downtrend. Imports are likely to continue growing at a much faster pace than exports."

## APV profit warning triggers share fall

SHARES in APV, the troubled manufacturer of equipment for the food industry, fell 12.1p to 77p yesterday after a profit warning (Martin Barrow writes). Sir Peter Cazalet, chairman, said at the annual meeting that action to further reduce costs in response

to a decline in orders would cost at least £8 million. The reason for the decline in profitability was "weak demand" in core markets.

In 1995, APV's pre-tax profits were £26.9 million on turnover of £881.9 million.

Tempus, page 28



Dr Michael Sinclair, left, chairman of SMH, and Kate Bleasdale, second right, chief executive, with nursing staff

## Healthcare group with £2m AIM

BY MARTIN BARROW  
SINCLAIR Montrose Healthcare, which provides support services to the healthcare sector, is seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market, raising between £1.5 million and £2 million by way of a share placing.

At flotation the company is expected to be capitalised at between £10 million and £12 million. Funds from the flotation will be used to further develop existing activities and to expand into related healthcare areas.

SMH was formed in February when it acquired Match, which supplies nursing and related staff, and GPDS, which provides out-of-hours services to general practitioners in the West Midlands.

The chairman of SMH is Dr Michael Sinclair, formerly chairman of Lifetime Corporation, a listed company in America that was sold to Olsten Corporation for \$600 million in 1993. The chief executive of SMH is Kate Bleasdale, a joint founder of Match with John Cariss, who is now chief operating officer of SMH.

The nominated adviser and broker to the company is Raphael Zorn Hemsley.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## BOC agrees £29.8m sale of Delta

BOC GROUP has agreed to sell Delta Biotechnology for £29.8 million, payable over two years. The Nottingham biopharmaceutical company is being sold to Cemeon, a joint venture of Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.

Delta specialises in developing and purifying blood plasma. BOC, whose core business sectors are industrial gases, healthcare, vacuum technology and distribution services, said the sale proceeds would cover net assets plus goodwill on acquisition previously written off. There would be annual savings in costs, principally research and development expenses.

## Tom Cobleigh to grow

TOM COBLEIGH, the pub retailer, yesterday announced plans to add 15 new managed houses this year to its fast-growing portfolio. The company, which floated in November last year, also revealed a 38 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits to £2.2 million. Overall turnover increased 30.5 per cent to £19.3 million. A maiden 1.0p final dividend is payable on August 19. Tom Cobleigh shares closed down 2p at 215p yesterday, compared with a flotation price of 150p.

## SEC lifts dividend

SEC GROUP, the market-maker in traded endowment policies, lifted pre-tax profits to £1 million in the six months to March 31, from £463,000 in the first half of the previous year. The interim dividend rises to 2p a share, compared with 1.5p, payable on July 1 from earnings that improved to 4.44p from 1.78p. The company said it expects to declare a final dividend of 2.25p a share, making a total of at least 4.25p for the year to September 30. The shares rose 3p to 76p yesterday.

## PPP Teletech venture

PPP, the private healthcare company, is linking up with the world's biggest customer-care call centre specialist. The £5 million joint venture with Teletech Holdings of America is designed to develop telephone information services for customers of large companies in the UK. Teletech is working on projects that would provide customers with face-to-face contact with a call centre via video conferencing using high street booths and ultimately via their TV or personal computer at home.

## Medeva US deal

MEDEVA, the pharmaceutical company, has bought the US rights to Semprex-D, a hay fever medication, for £10.9 million from Glaxo Wellcome. The antihistamine was already marketed in America by Adams Laboratories, Medeva's subsidiary. Glaxo Wellcome will supply the product to Adams until regulatory approval has been received. Jerry Schultz, president and chief executive officer of Medeva America, said: "Semprex-D is one of our core new products and we are very pleased to be bringing it wholly in-house."

## RM pushes ahead

RM, the supplier of information technology software, services and equipment to the education sector, lifted profits to £1.32 million before tax in the half-year to March 31, from £1.04 million in the first six months of the previous year. Earnings advanced to 5p a share from 4p. The interim dividend rises to 1.8p a share from 1.5p. The shares slipped 8p to 497p yesterday. The company had cash of £9.7 million at the end of the first half, compared with £10 million a year ago.

## Countryside setback

COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES, one of the largest housebuilders in London and the South East, has cut the interim dividend to 0.75p (1.41p) after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.03 million (£2.3 million) in the half-year to March 31. Earnings fell to 1.1p a share (2p). The company incurred losses of £10.6 million before tax in the last full financial year and Alan Cherry, chairman, said that although the company had made good progress since the second half of last year, the results did not justify a maintained dividend.

# The T5 Inquiry.

# Why it shouldn't be interminable.

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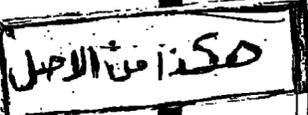
For example we recently represented the consortium which will build and operate one of the first privately financed prisons in this country.

And in the UK rail privatisation we advised the successful bidder for the largest of three rolling stock leasing companies - a £672m transaction.

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# Shares drift lower in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### LEISURE & HOTELS

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11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.15	11.10	Alcon	11.10	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
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11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

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11.10	11.05	Alcon	11.05	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.05	11.00	Alcon	11.00	-0.05	4.5	15.5
11.00	10.95	Alcon	10.95	-0.05	4.5	15.5
10.95	10.90	Alcon	10.90	-0.05	4.5	15.5

### UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Y
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

Advertisement for Meridiana travel agency, featuring a map of Italy and the text: 'Giotto, Brunelleschi, Bramante, Donatello, Raffaello, Leonardo, Botticelli, Masaccio, Mantegna, Michelangelo. In other words: we go to Florence.' Includes contact information for London and Florence.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Obsessed mad man' and 'Fabri' at the bottom, with a stylized graphic.



■ VISUAL ART 1  
No limit to his observation: the glory of Degas is revealed at the National Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2  
Lashings of passion and paint: Gillian Ayres puts her colourful style on show in London



■ VISUAL ART 3  
In his first solo show, Daniel Enkaoua reveals a simmering intensity beneath the deceptive calm



■ VISUAL ART 4  
In Smith Square a mystic aura and fine technique combine in the paintings and prints of M.J. Mott

Richard Cork on the National Gallery's major exhibition of Degas' brilliant variations on two themes

# Obsession that made an old man happy

**P**ale, gaunt and dressed in a workaday coat smeared with pastel dust, the ageing Degas stares out from his self-portrait with an air of profound resignation. A deep crimson shadow is scored beneath the left eye, accentuating his weariness. "I look like a dog," he exclaimed when surveying this disconsolate likeness. But there is no mistaking the acuteness of his honest observation, and behind his grizzled head a buoyant image of a female nude hangs on the wall. Rubbing the nape of her neck with a towel, she shows just how spirited the old man's imagination could be.

Positioned at the beginning of the National Gallery's powerful new exhibition, this revealing image sums up the paradox of Degas' later years. To the outside world, he often seemed morose and reclusive. Within the fastness of his looming Montmartre house, though, the inveterate bachelor pursued his pictorial preoccupations with daring, drive and resourcefulness. This pioneering survey concentrates on the hitherto neglected period of his career between the late 1890s and 1912, when Degas' home in the Rue Victor Masse was demolished. The move to another apartment brought his art to an end, and he spent his last five years in ever-worsening health. Before then, however, he had led a disciplined and inventive life, continually revising, simplifying, refining and transforming a few obsessive themes.

Although some of the pictures and sculpture in Richard Kendall's well-chosen survey have been exhibited before, the full range of Degas' late work is here displayed for the first time. And it gives the lie to critics who claimed that he had deteriorated into a narrow, repetitive old age. Degas' decision to jettison most of the subjects explored in his earlier career did not limit him as an artist. By casting aside his racehorses, singers, laun-

dresses and whors, in order to focus on dancers and bathers alone, he affirmed that his overriding loyalty lay with the female figure in her private moments. The ballerinas who appear in Degas' late pictures are not, for the most part, performing on stage. Even when arrayed in sequined tutus, they are increasingly seen in rehearsal rooms, backstage or waiting in the wings. As for the women who disrobe, wash and rub them-

“He wanted his art to be as purged and renewed as the bathers”

selves dry, they are wholly caught up in their own cleansing activities.

Even though he concentrates so tightly on these figures, Degas makes us realise that the subject is potentially limitless. The show's principal revelation lies in its serial images, clusters of pictures based on the same motif but capable of infinite transformation. The sequences often commence with a stark charcoal study, based on nude models posed in the studio. Degas was a consummate draughtsman, and even the roughest of these late, loosely handled sketches are miracles of suppleness, economical observation. *Group of Dancers* is among the most masterly of these studies. Broken and smudged, the charcoal nevertheless captures the nervous, fluttering motion of the women as they brace themselves for the performance ahead.

Degas habitually drew on tracing paper, so that he could replicate an existing design and then change it at will. Hanging next to the *Group of*

*Dancers drawing* are the fully fledged ballet pictures based on the same composition. Using pastel with extraordinary freedom, Degas ensures that the naked models undergo a wonderful series of metamorphoses. In one image, they are clothed in green tutus liberally spattered with flecks of white. The painted scenery behind them is summarised deftly, making the dancers seem as if they are sheltering behind it. They look almost turbanic, and this unease prevents the picture from degenerating into mere prettiness.

On other occasions, Degas meditates on the difference between the raw reality of posed models and the outright enchantment of the same figures dressed as ballerinas. The charcoal study of *Two Nude Dancers on a Bench* is a stark affair, focusing on the strain involved in limbering up for a performance. By the time they were reworked in a pastel version, though, all that physical effort had given way to a magical alternative. Slashed with vigorous vertical strokes of violet and gold, the stretching women look like angelic apparitions floating in paradise. Degas became fascinated by the change undergone by these creatures as they moved, in an especially beguiling pair of pictures, from deep blue to a more captivating blend of pink and green.

Not all the dancer pictures are so ethereal. In 1899 Degas became excited by the spectacle of Russian dancers. Their fiery costumes and uninhibited movements bewitched the old man, who produced a series of blazing pastels celebrating their dynamism. Looking at these headlong pictures today, we can see them as the first stirrings of the fascination with Russian ballet which swept through Europe a decade later.

The bathers immerse are, on the face of it, less spectacular. After all, what could be more matter-of-fact than glimpses of women sitting on the edge of a tub, stepping in, climbing out



*Dancers, Pink and Green* (c. 1896), from the National Gallery's show devoted to the later, less lauded, Degas

and drying themselves? Degas, however, scrutinised these mundane activities again and again. More than 200 pastels, together with a quantity of oil paintings and sculptures as well as countless drawings, testify to the strength of his obsession. But there is no suggestion that the nudes are being observed by salivating male elders. The women are attractive enough, and Degas relished the lithe-ness of their bodies. His primary aim, however, was not erotic. Rather, does he define the strength, agility and sheer animal independence of naked bodies purging themselves of urban grime.

In one particularly luminous painting, a maid pours water from a jug on to a woman's shoulders. The gesture could well possess a baptismal significance. But her back is charged with energy, and the changes it undergoes in picture after picture are audacious enough to command attention at every stage.

In the National Gallery's large pastel, she dominates the composition with statuesque grandeur. But, in a closely related version, from the Norton Simon Foundation in California, she seems plumper and more sensual. It is an exquisitely refined image, and yet Degas was capable of startling roughness as well. The version from Stuttgart has no time for a display of virtuoso technique. The hatched shading on her back is scratched on to the paper, and the rest of her body

appears to be breaking up into disjointed fragments. Degas was far too fascinated by the human body ever to become an abstract artist. In the most experimental of these late works, though, he does seem to be pushing himself into a world where line, form and colour have a more autonomous existence than before. Despite growing infirmity and worsening eyesight, this restless old man wanted his art to be as purged and renewed as the bathers emerging from the water. If his subjects remained constant, his images were forever on the move.

● Degas: Beyond Impressionism opens at the National Gallery tomorrow and continues until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-430 0000)

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

**DANIEL ENKAOUA** is only 33, and this is his first one-man show. He is a very quiet painter indeed. Born in France of a long-established Sephardic family, he settled in Israel when he was 19. He paints mainly townscapes, of a modern city which could be anywhere round the Mediterranean. The style is a soft-edged, non-photographic realism, the colouring subdued, as though everything is seen through a veil of dust. But Enkaoua's paintings have a shimmering intensity, as of the calm before a desert storm. *Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161), until June 14*

It is sad to see the Ben Uri Gallery about to be evicted from its old home above the Dean Street synagogue (the site is to be redeveloped). One can hope that plans for a much larger building will be rapidly realised. Meanwhile, the penultimate exhibition is devoted to yet another neglected 20th-century Jewish artist, Michael Salaman (1911-1987). Salaman was a brilliant colourist, his pictures radiating bonhomie. Even the darkest — like *Casualty*, based on his wartime experience — hint at a happy ending. The art is so skilled that one cannot but wonder why it is not better known. *Ben Uri Art Gallery, 21 Deane Street, W1 (0171-437 2852), until May 26*

British artists, especially of a symbolic disposition, often find that the technical disciplines of print-making focus their talents. M.J. Mott seems to be of this persuasion. Some of her paintings are beautiful: dreamlike landscapes, fantastic cities, elemental Adam-and-Eve figures apparently rooted in the ground itself. But there is also a tendency for the human figures, dwelling in fantasy, to lack a necessary infrastructure of bones and muscles. As soon as we turn to the prints, though, the work toughens up. Mott is clearly mistress of many techniques: here we find etchings plain and coloured, mezzotints, linocuts, wood-engravings and relief prints, as well as mixtures. The effect is stunning: crisp, elegant, precise, brilliantly coloured where applicable, yet retaining the mystic aura in which the paintings are bathed. *Footstool Gallery, St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 2168) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, and 6-10pm on concert evenings, until June 1*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

# The bright spark in a brown world

Sacha Craddock celebrates the long career of one of Britain's best abstract painters; plus other new shows

**T**o anyone standing in front of a work by Gillian Ayres it soon becomes clear that this artist's chosen subject is painting itself. Unlike a lot of lyrical abstraction, Ayres' work is almost belligerent in its direct, "hands-on", expressionistic approach. There is no sense of doubt or indecision, only of an attempt to create a reality through massive volumes of paint. The struggle seems more physical than mental. "Why should painting be bloody misery?" Ayres asks. Her current exhibition at Gimpel Fils is a vivid illustration of this attitude. It includes a generous selection of works: many large paintings, among them a diptych which is very large indeed, and a group of smaller works downstairs. The colour in the recent works

is forceful, the drawing blunt. Throughout her career, which spans almost half a century, Ayres has been concerned with paint's potential for transformation. Perhaps no other British painter, except Frank Auerbach, has explored this potential with such passion. The other enduring quality in Ayres' work is the expressive use of colour. From the thinner, more fluid abstract pictures of the 1950s to the later "arranged" works of the 1980s, all are uniformly bright and hedonistic and determinedly not rooted in the English tradition of muted tonal variations.

Her affiliations lie in a straight line from Impressionism, through Matisse to American Abstract Expressionism. She first came into contact with what she still

characterises as "brown" English art as a student at Camberwell Art School, where she kept herself to herself. "I thought when I went to art school: 'how wonderful, I will be able to talk to people.' But that was 1946, and they had all come out of the Army and they were talking about the desert and the jungle instead." Her work has remained consistently, almost blindly, unconcerned with specific subject matter or the trappings of autobiography, more decorative than descriptive.

"Our particular culture has always been difficult about decoration," she says. "It is happier with serious subjects and brown paintings. I'm not against the brown of Braque — the colour brown — but there was always thought to be an extra seriousness in dark



Gillian Ayres's *Hanging Gardens of Babylon*, 1994-95

paintings. In this country they also talk of pure decoration as if it were something like an embroidered cushion. It is a form of Puritanism."

Although Ayres has been making paintings for nearly five decades, it was at the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s that her large, encrusted, spectacular works achieved acclaim, and came to be essential viewing for a great number of art students. Up to that point she had been teaching in art schools herself, but after an illness moved to Wales and painted full-time.

She talks about art using a language that presumes a singular shared view. "Reality is constant, but its manifestations are not. I would like to think that my paintings hit at a collective consciousness." She sees the world through her medium and its history. "Wherever I go in the world, I know the skies from painting. On the East Coast I see Constable clouds. People said to Picasso 'that's not in Nature,' and he said, 'well it is now'."

● Gillian Ayres is at Gimpel Fils, 30 Davies Street London W1 (0171-493 3888) to June 15

□ The usually expensive space at Matt's Gallery seems much smaller. Running right across it from side to side is a fake wall. Only slowly does it become clear that, despite the heavily opaque mix of red and purple paint which covers it and the elaborate black detailing at the bottom of the wall, all is not as solid as it seems: a taut, fragile membrane covers the structure, and daylight filters thinly through from behind. Called *What are you Lookin' At?*, this simple piece by John Frankland is strangely atmospheric: a potentially bland piece has been turned into something more elusive. *Matt's Gallery, 42-44 Copperfield Rd, London E3 (0181-983 1771), until June 9*

□ With a little help and a makeshift kitchen, Giorgio Sardotti managed to produce an excellent meal in the cold basement of the Cubitt Gallery. *Dinner* may sound like another cynical, cliché exercise whereby a list of names becomes a substitute for art. At the same time, however, it was nice to be asked. But that is beside the point. The result-

ing exhibition shows the dinner table exactly as it was left by the guests, with cigarette stubs, empty glasses, doodled table cloths and crumpled napkins "signed" by Gavin Turk. A frequently altered seating plan, a menu, snapshots of the cooking and a refusal by fax are tacked on the wall. At each end of the table a large television monitor shows various things, including two short films by Gillian Wearing, while a soundtrack specially arranged by Angela Bulloch plays on. Although nothing awful or embarrassing happened during dinner, the show creates a strong sense that it was all a long time ago, and that the traces should now be cleared up.

*Cubitt Gallery 2/4 Caledonia Street London N1 (0171-278 8226) until June 2*

□ Two obsessively worked paintings by Tim Renshaw turn intensive labour to real advantage. The tracery of a map or street plan is repeated in a creeping web across each canvas; yellow detail painstakingly spreads across a black ground in one; blue spreads across grey in the other. Two delicate pieces by Bernice Donzelman are traced straight onto the wall to make small finely woven patterns like drawn-out lace or two-dimensional basketwork. Andrew Chesher's work hovers between utility and flatness: a detailed but worn Formica table top sits directly on legs, while a sanded piece of blockboard sits mounted on a fine sandwich of board on the floor, leaning against the wall. Renshaw has selected an unusually discreet show which suggests some intriguing cross-references. *Glasworks 155 Vauxhall Street London SE11 (0171-735 3445) until May 26*

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CHOICE 1

Birmingham Royal Ballet dances Frederick Ashton's Birthday Offering

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Opera House

CHOICE 2

Neil Bartlett's musical version of Lady Into Fox comes to Brighton

VENUE: This week at the Royal Pavilion

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

The French music festival continues under Yan Pascal Tortelier's baton

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

DANCE

Intelligence and wit mark a programme of old favourites and new work from Trisha Brown

An offering you cannot refuse

Trisha Brown Company Theatre Royal, Brighton

There is nothing very loud about Trisha Brown's choreography. It materialises on stage unobtrusively, unravels its complexities modestly, and then disappears quietly, as if anxious to escape the overt congratulation of applause.

Her greatest hit, Set and Reset, part of her current British tour, presented by Dance Umbrella, is vintage Trisha Brown. Created by the American choreographer in 1963, in collaboration with the composer Laurie Anderson and the painter Robert Rauschenberg, it is a classic of Post-Modern dance.



Trisha Brown's new M.O., set to Bach and "inspired by the construction and clarity of Baroque rhythms"

While instinct informs Set and Reset, it is the intellect that informs her 1995 work M.O. Here Brown has - in a new departure - turned to classical music: Bach's Musical Offering. Her relationship to Bach is less straightforward than Paul Taylor's, say, or Mark Morris's; at times the music is left to speak to an empty stage, at others the dance is left to complete its statement in silence.

Feet (although not quite as precise as one would like) define small patterns gently brushed against the floor; hands carve delicate angular shapes that never cease to consume the space. The choreography is at its strongest when the dancers start performing in unison, the power coming from the warmth of the ensemble and the assertion of movement reiterated in many bodies at the same time. But M.O.'s focus is less compelling than Set and Reset; this is the kind of work you admire, rather than adore.

The choreographer herself: If you couldn't see her, devised by Brown and Rauschenberg. Indeed, no one could see her, since she danced the entire piece with her back to the audience and her face obscured by a fantastic head of hair. Yet even without the benefit of eye contact we could respond to her extraordinary charisma, her elegantly proportioned physique, her luminous stage presence created by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. Brown may be heading for 60 this year, but she remains a goddess of the dance.

DEBRA CRAINE

LONDON

PAS DE DEUX: Frederick Ashton's timeless Birthday Offering, with music by Glazunov and designs by Peter Farmer, is danced by Birmingham Royal Ballet. It is given with David Bintley's Carolina business, a modern interpretation of a collection of 13th-century bawdy poems and songs, set to Carl Orff's powerful score, and sung by the Birmingham City Chorus.

APRES L'APRES-MIDI 2: The Philharmonia Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier offers an exciting programme of French music at the Festival Hall. The evening begins with the world premiere of Beethoven's La Marseillaise (7pm), with the orchestra David Wilson-Johnson. At 9pm Debussy's La mer and Dutilleul's La Nuit Eclairée are sandwiched between Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand and the second suite from Daphne and Cloé. With Jean-François Coiffand and the Philharmonia Chorus.

FREWILD Moving Theatre opens a season of Scheherazade with the British premiere of his 1996 play, an army officer, deep in debt, harnesses an actress he considers fair game to

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mezey

"Inevitably". Rehearsed play readings of other Shakespearean on Sals May 25 to June 15 4.30pm. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW5 (0171-791-0022). Reviews begin Sat (June 1, 8) 2.45pm. Until June 8 (8)

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: Neil Bartlett's intimate musical adaptation of David Garnett's chilling novella, Lady Into Fox, from today to Saturday at the Music Room, Royal Pavilion (8pm); performed by Louise Gold and Dale Ripley, with Nicola Bloomfield at the piano. Over at the Theatre Royal, Travelling Opera gives Mozart's Così fan tutti (7pm), set in the gardens of an Oxford college in the early 1800s. Sung in English. Festival box office (01273 523292)

WOLD: Stage adaptation of the Fred MacMurray/Barbara Stanwyck film noir Double Indemnity. Edward Thomas directs a cast led by Barry Foster

LONDON GALLERIES

Brighton: Dark Jarmen (0171-838 4141) - British Museum: Kayana Hecato (0171-636 1555). Nottingham: The British premiere of Claustrophobia, Lev Dodin's new production for the Theatre de la Ville, St Petersburg, inspired by the company's findings on returning to Russia: the country is vast but everyone feels locked in. Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115 941 9419). Opera tonight-Sat, 7.30pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingston's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol  $\square$ ) on release across the country

LONG RUNNERS

Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-580 7283) - Bluey: Strand (0171-900 8800) - Claret: New London (0171-405 0072) - Claret: New London (0171-405 0072) - Claret: New London (0171-405 0072)

CINEMA GUIDE

police detective battle with a serial killer. Director, Jon Jarrow. MGM: Chicago (0171-382 5096) Tracerider (0171-434 0031) Odessa: Kensington (01203 914650) Blues: Kensington (01203 914650) Avalon: Whitlakers (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

Master of the late show

Krystian Zimerman Festival Hall

Even in the cavernous Festival Hall, the music came across with an intimacy that reflected Zimerman's easy dexterity and his way of investing all dynamics with colours of extraordinary subtlety.

From the firm opening of Haydn's Sonata in E flat, Hob XVI:49, Zimerman took delight in the surprises the composer throws in. Whether in the almost Romantic expression of the Adagio or the

playing sounded spontaneous. Best of all was Schubert's Sonata No 20 in A, D959. Written just months before his early death, it is still a "late" work in which the composer - in contrast to Beethoven - was reaching out towards lyrical expansiveness. Zimerman paced it perfectly. The Lied-like Andantino was heard-achingly beautiful, the later movements full of virtuosity in a performance of rare intellectual and emotional consistency. JOHN ALLISON

NEW RELEASES

BLUE IN THE FACE (15): Stomps and jokes about Brooklyn life. Indignant comparison made to Sinatra with Harvey Keitel, Roseanne and many others. Director, Wayne Wang. Plaza (0171-437 1234) Release (0171-827 9402) Reviewed (0171-332 0000) Rilly (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

COPICAT (18): Agoraphobic Squirey Weaver and Holly Hunter's

ENTERTAINMENTS

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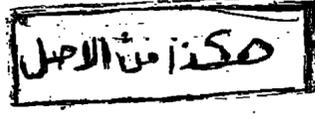
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**CANNES**  
The old master Bertolucci turns his lens on the British in Tuscany in his new film, *Stealing Beauty*



**THEATRE**  
A new Archie Rice: Michael Pennington steps into Olivier's shoes in *The Entertainer*

# THE TIMES ARTS



**POP**  
Extinguish all cigarettes: the sensitive Tracy Chapman has embarked on a British tour



**TOMORROW**  
Maestro of New York: Kurt Masur reveals how he revitalised America's oldest orchestra

Some say that the standard of entries in this year's Cannes competition is too high. Geoff Brown is not among them

## New whine in a vintage year

Film critics are a hard lot to please. After moaning during the past few years about the poor quality of Cannes' competition films, some have voiced the view that this time the films were almost too good. There weren't enough that you wanted to walk out of. Now, walking out of a Cannes press screening takes a special skill. You choose the film's quietest moment; you stand, let the seat tip back with a thud and stumble out, contriving to jolt the row in front and perhaps tread on a few toes. It's a little art form in itself. But how could anyone practise this during Mike Leigh's *Secrets & Lies*, or Lars von Trier's *Breaking the Waves*, the films firmly established by the middle of last week as the critics' favourites? We even sat relatively still during a major disappointment such as the mawkish *The Eighth Day*, Jaco Van Dormael's long-awaited successor to *Toto the Hero*, hoping, perhaps, that the opening shafts of brilliance would return to save this banal tale of a harassed businessman (Daniel Auteuil) humanised by an adult with Down's syndrome. Alas, they seldom did. The line-up for this 49th festival may have been weak on new talent, but there were very few competition films that could be tossed aside lightly, least of all by the jury, chaired by Francis Coppola. Even those who scoffed at Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty* had to admit that it glided smoothly past the eyes. The film marks the director's tentative return to contemporary Italy after 16 years of movie wandering in China, India and the Sahara. He is still an outsider; not for nothing are the chief characters British expatriates, bohemians in Tuscany, topped off with an American teenager ripe for a rite of passage. Liv

Tyler, the luminous actress Bertolucci picked for this role, had her face plastered all over the Croisette; you would swear she was advertising perfume, not a movie. *Italians* at least love the film's scent — it has been a big hit there — and, while the film is small, there is a freshness to its musings on love, death and beauty that renews hope for a director whose most recent film was *Little Buddha*. Bertolucci is not the only film director who has been revamping his portfolio. Steven Soderbergh, who shot to stardom when he won the Palme d'Or aged 26 with sex, lies & videotape, sent a print of

Some of Cannes' greatest pleasures, however, came from seeing well-established directors doing what comes naturally. Now in his mid-seventies, Eric Rohmer is scarcely going to change his ways and lurch into all-action bloodshed. The delightful *A Summer's Tale*, third in a series of seasonal stories, featured the usual articulate young people dithering between romantic commitments over one long lazy summer in Brittany. Rohmer usually focuses on the female sex, but here Melvin Poupart's Gaspard took centre stage. Should he give his heart to Lena, his supposed girlfriend, or Margot, his platonic chum, or the voluptuous Solène? Not an earth-shattering question, perhaps, but Rohmer delved so deftly into his characters' actions and thoughts that you happily spent nearly two hours discovering the answer. If we go to Rohmer for elegant talk and French sunshine, we go to Akk Kaurismäki for cryptic silences and gloom. The droll Finnish minimalist was on top form in *Drifting Clouds*, a sad, funny, ultimately optimistic tale of a married couple fighting the country's recession. There were no fishy fish, mind. Kaurismäki's characters — one is a restaurant hostess, the other drives a tram — faced unemployment, financial hardship and marital ruptures with long, brave faces. The slow pace and deadpan tone followed the usual Kaurismäki formula, but the quirky use of colour (blue especially) lent the film a distinctive glow. The film is dedicated to the memory of Matti Pellonpää, the quintessential Kaurismäki actor, who was originally to play the restaurant worker; Kati Outinen was his magnificent replacement. The dominant colours of David Cronenberg's *Crash*



"Gliding smoothly past the eyes": Donal McCann and Liv Tyler in *Stealing Beauty*, Bernardo Bertolucci's return to something like his best form

Very few competition films could be tossed aside lightly

*Schizopolis*, made with his own money and with himself as lead actor. This was presented on Saturday as the festival's traditional surprise film. Unfortunately the surprise was unpleasant. Soderbergh has used his freedom to create an incredibly dishevelled comedy about psycho-babble and communication, made up of 2 per cent funny business and 98 per cent dross. On the same day, Michael Cimino, still carrying the scars of *Heaven's Gate*, came to relaunch his career yet again with his competition entry *The Sunchaser*, an odd-couple-on-the-road movie about a smooth LA doctor (Woody Harrelson) taken hostage by an escaped prisoner dying of cancer. Clichés overtook the characters, but the film was always watchable.

are black and grey, the colours of cars, farms, and the Toronto night. Long before this adaptation of J.G. Ballard's notorious novel unspooled in competition last Friday, we were being primed for something scandalously offensive. True, those with axes to grind will grind away as James Spader, Holly Hunter and Elias Koteas experience the ultimate sexual thrill from crashing cars, licking their wounds, and doing things I cannot possibly describe in a respectable newspaper. But Cronenberg's touch is so cold and so clinical that the images themselves are in no way inflammatory. The sombre palette, tightly controlled camera movements and hushed words create an extreme, bleak atmosphere of

sexual tension and perversity. But as *Crash* proceeds, you soon realise this is a mood piece without drama; and what astonishes after ten minutes loses its potency after a hundred. Fortunately other directors at Cannes never forgot about the pleasures of diversity and a mobile narrative. The playful intellectual Raul Ruiz defied the sceptics with his warm and whimsical *Three Lives and Only One Death*, a compendium of tales featuring Marcello Mastroianni, a man with multiple personalities. Jacques Audiard, a scriptwriter turned director, supplied a superb entertainment with *Un Héros très discret*, the ironic tale of a young man who invents his own past as a Resistance hero in the months

after France's liberation. Thoughtful, witty and tender by turns, the film darts nimbly between its moods, helped by a subtly inflected performance from Matthieu Kassovitz as the nobody from the provinces who learns how to be somebody. There were many other notable films on view, from Rolf de Heer's *The Quiet Room*, a powerful journey into a child's mind, to Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *Goodbye South, Goodbye* (ravishing to watch, if difficult to penetrate). Outside the cinemas, Virginia Bottomley paraded with rock stars, Tony Curtis swaggered without shame, and Elizabeth Taylor jetted in and out. For star allure this was not vintage Cannes; but for films, by and large, it was.

## Over-dubbed

SALIF KEITA has one of the most compelling voices in black Africa. Yet he is white — an albino born to black parents, which still carries a heavy stigma in most African countries. Poor eyesight caused him to abandon his training as a teacher and his high-ranking family in Mali never approved of his decision to become a musician. These struggles have turned him into a cathartic performer whose passionate, high voice at times sighs, screams and wails. He evokes the tragedy of generations of West Africa in the style of the Manding griots, the traditional minstrels who recorded the history of a people who trace their ancestry back to the 13th century. Not that this was always apparent from Keita's London appearance. The range of his recorded work was submerged by a high-octane performance which initially excited but eventually sounded one-paced. A strong reggae feel was provided by a rhythm section which was intent on sounding like Sly and Robbie, the powerhouse of the early recordings by Bob Marley and the Wailers. This was exhilarating on songs such as *Dakan-je* and *Nyanjana* but after several

numbers, one desired some light and shade. Keita himself had set the tone when he invited the audience to rise to their feet after only the second number. It was a simple way of grappling with a problem which has seen great African artists such as Hugh Masekela and Manu Dibango struggle to ignite this soul-less venue. The audience remained on its feet throughout as Keita sang most of his recent *Folon* album, including the excellent *Africa* and *Mandjou*, which showcased the Islamic influence on Keita's voice. By the encore, the singer was pulling members out of the audience so that, in a nightmare for the security, more than 50 people ended up dancing on stage. Only with the second encore did Keita offer us a chill-out zone, with a traditional and brooding version of the title track from *Folon*. We could have done with more. NIGEL WILLIAMSON

### POP: Warm welcomes for a traditional, no-holds-barred folk experience, and a singer-songwriter's comeback

Like Clannad, the Irish band currently touring in celebration of its silver jubilee, Altan hails from the Gaelic-speaking Gweedore district of coastal Donegal. But this six-piece act, fronted by vocalist and fiddle player Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, demonstrates no ambition to update the ancient music of the area, or to dilute it to modern tastes. During a 13-year recording career, most of it with the independent label Green Linnet, the band has offered instead the full-on, no-holds-barred traditional folk experience — a mostly rollicking, but occasionally mournful blend of jigs, reels and hornpipes, propelled frequently by the

## Purist's view of Ireland

Altan  
Queen Elizabeth Hall  
symbiotic fiddling of Ni Mhaonaigh and her musical partner Ciaran Tourish. While a rather more pesty and self-conscious interpretation of Ireland's musical past

is proving massively saleable worldwide, it is unusual to find so uncompromising an approach as that favoured by Altan receiving the enthusiastic backing of a major record company. But though a new album, *Blackwater*, marks the group's debut on Virgin, it is still a purist's dream. And plugged assiduously here, it also delighted a capacity audience that was stirred sufficiently to whoop encouragement. For the most part, small medleys of tunes presented together allowed the band time to build up a momentum of sound, vast yet always precise, that tumbled relentlessly onwards to a close. There were instances of quiet emotion too, however: Dermot Byrne's melancholic playing of the accordion, for instance, and *A Tune For Frankie*, Ni Mhaonaigh's elegiac tribute to the celebrated fiddle player Frankie Kennedy, a founder member of Altan and also her husband, who died of cancer in 1994. Reassuring then that, on the same evening that the tourist-friendly tones of Eimear Quinn won Ireland the Eurofest for the third time in four years, an altogether more authentic take on the tradition should be so warmly received. ALAN JACKSON

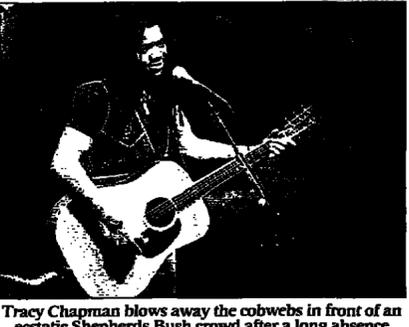
## One reason to listen

Last December a record seen by some as just another Tracy Chapman album took a modest bow on *Billboard's* US chart. It may have been her first set in three years, but wasn't this yesterday's woman? Fanfares never sounded and bells never rang, but this week Chapman's *New Beginning* moves to No 8 on that survey while the single, *Give Me One Reason*, is two places even higher in the magazine's Hot 100, giving the Cleveland-born

### Tracy Chapman Empire, W12

performer easily her biggest success since her multi-platinum, Grammy-winning debut. Thus invigorated, Chapman has headed out on a European itinerary which concluded with her first UK show in four years. Any fears about expired memories of that fantastically successful self-titled record of eight years ago and

its 1989 follow up, *Crossroads*, were dispelled inside a bulging Empire. Notices informed us that Chapman had "requested a non-smoking venue for tonight's show". This did indeed become an admirably pollution-free corner of Shepherd's Bush, if only for the duration of her long performance. Such strictures demonstrate the tight rein she still keeps on a show and an audience. The introspective style and earnest lyricism are intact. But this was a home crowd, with her all the way on mutually fond memories such as *Baby Can I Hold You* and *Fast Car*. On her newer work, such as the current album's title song and its US hit, Chapman lets her dreadlocks flow a little more loosely, and *Give Me One Reason* had an infectious funky blues groove to it. But it was not until the encore, and a positively hedonistic cover of *Proud Mary*, that she really seemed to let herself off the leash. For all the exemplary musical conscientiousness that had gone before, it cast her in new, brighter colours. Like seeing the head girl necking after school. PAUL SEXTON



Tracy Chapman blows away the cobwebs in front of an ecstatic Shepherd's Bush crowd after a long absence

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## Not quite an Archie to rival Larry's

MICHAEL PENNINGTON, star of classical theatre and embodiment of heroes from Oedipus to Hamlet, is now to be seen telling shabby jokes, tap dancing and generally going to seed in once-grand seaside towns, shacking up in boarding establishments where standards are slipping. It is an intriguing if not exactly entertaining notion: Pennington turning into Archie Rice. Of course, John Osborne's crumbling music-hall comedian, immortalised by Olivier on film, was never a laughing matter. Archie is down at heel and out of date. His one-liners are dying in 1950s Britain, where the Empire is on the rocks and the younger generation, including his university-educated daughter and quipped son, are increasingly hip. Sharing digs with his aged father and a wife for whom

### THEATRE The Entertainer Watermill, Newbury

he no longer cares, Archie is harbouring years of pent-up disappointment. Unable to stop cracking jokes even at home, he ultimately has a breakdown on stage. Pennington is not, as yet, fully at home in the part. His Archie lapses into rather too mellifluous standard pronunciation — yet those soft, middle-class tones surfacing between the cockney and the joke-pukka remind us of the minor public-school past from which Archie has fallen and underline his instability, the con-

founding of the private man with his professional masks. Physically, Pennington's transformation is fine. He fidgets restlessly or slumps silently in his father's worn little sitting room, filled with black cynicism. Up against the footlights, doling out feeble punchlines, he hunches forward under his bowler hat, flaps his white-gloved hands, freezes a grin. That said, his vaudeville act could be sharper, with more stress showing through. Stephen Rayne's cast have not quite settled into a frazzled family. The political arguments feel slightly stiff, although Osborne's depiction of stale relationships and screaming rows are still startling and still strike a chord. KATE BASSETT

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# LAW

● NEW BAR PLAN 39  
● LAW REPORT 21

Frances Gibb on the difficulties ahead for the solicitors' new advertising agency

## Sue, Grabbit & Runne orders a new image

Walter Thompson says it is the "dream brief" — how to restore the reputation of solicitors, possibly the group held in lowest public esteem, barring politicians and journalists. Last week JWT was the advertising agency picked to devise a plan to lift lawyers out of the mire: the first such campaign to promote the whole profession since the ill-fated "Mr Whatsname" advertisements in the 1970s.

The campaign is the baby of Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, who feels the society has done little in recent years to promote solicitors or combat a bad press riddled with stories of lawyers running off with clients' money or legal aid abuse.

"It is very dispiriting for solicitors to read this kind of story all the time," he says. "The public blame the majority for the activities of a tiny minority. It's as if doctors were reading all the time about their colleagues molesting their patients. Solicitors need to see their activities promoted more positively."

Three top agencies were therefore asked to put up their ideas for a promotional campaign for solicitors. JWT will now work up detailed proposals, which may lead to a full-scale advertising campaign this autumn. Stephen Carter, JWT's managing director, says: "We were given a very clear brief — identifying the reputational and commercial issues facing the solicitors' branch of the profession." The agency's research, he adds, has thrown up two problems: a decline in solicitors' reputation and a lack of recognition of their commercial contribution to society.

So, many say, what's new? Shakespeare was not the first to capture public feeling about the profession: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," Walter Merricks, head of communications at the Law Society, says. "The image of solicitors has declined over the years, along with everyone in authority. Take bank managers — they used to be held in high esteem, but their reputation has not been enhanced by the way banks are now organised, and managers are not thought to wield much power."

Solicitors, however, faced another problem which does not apply to most of the medical profession: "Doctors and nurses are still seen as angels of mercy. One reason is that for the most part, they are



Daniel Benzali of TV's *Murder One* has the image Martin Mears, top, and Sir Tim Bell seek for British lawyers



not sullied by having to ask for fees."

But any advertising campaign must grapple with a paradox. While people have a poor view of the profession as a whole, they have high regard, generally, for their own solicitor. This individual respect is not translated to solicitors en masse.

John Jenkins, head of the Law Society's research and policy planning, cites a 1994 Law Society survey in which more than two thirds of clients said their own solicitor was approachable, efficient and competent — the opposite of American research, which showed that those who recently used a lawyer thought worse of them. But the problem, he says, is that solicitors tend to be a "distress purchase": people often go to a solicitor at a time of a traumatic life event such as moving home, divorce, a criminal trial or compensation for injury. They do not see them as general advisers. People also choose a solicitor chiefly by personal recommendation.

So the benefits of any large-scale campaign are questionable, he says, unless it "provides a platform that can be used by individual solicitors". In some cases that will mean a change in attitude: the most off-putting factor about solicitors, the survey found, was fear of cost: 45 per cent thought fees too high, and 40 per cent that solicitors were mainly after their money.

What, then, can a £3 million generic campaign for the profession achieve? The history of promoting solicitors is mixed. A series of TV commercials run by Riley Advertising in Glasgow for the Law Society from 1991 for three years was a hit with the public. The jockey ads bore the slogan: "It's never too soon to call a solicitor." But many in the profession thought it demeaning and the campaign was called off. Similarly, the Mr Whatsname campaign in England, featuring a barrister offering bad advice to his mates, was criticised by many and then collapsed in farce when a solicitor

changed his name to Mr Whatsname by deed poll. Sue Stapely, chief Law Society press officer, says: "The problem is that advertising campaigns, naturally, are aimed at the public — but solicitors see them as demeaning. They view them as if they were the target audience. So it ends in tears." Instead, the society has sought to promote specific services, such as its accident line for personal injury claims, and its "Transaction" campaign for conveyancing standards.

What is different now, though, is the broad consensus that the image of solicitors badly needs a boost. Ironically, many attribute this current poor standing to Mr Mears himself, whose idea the campaign is. He accepts a link. "I was elected to carry out a revolution, and that cannot be done quietly, without argument or resentment." But, he says, it is in the interests of his opponents to exaggerate the in-fighting and depict all as worse than it is. "The noise is being made by people we have displaced."

Mr Mears accepts there is no quick fix. Any campaign

## Suffering in the cause of justice

Earlier this month, the Croydon magistrates convicted Matthew Simmons of using threatening words and behaviour at a football match at Selhurst Park in January 1995. The magistrates accepted the evidence of witnesses who had heard Simmons, a Crystal Palace supporter, shout crude abuse at, and make offensive gestures towards, the Manchester United player, Eric Cantona. This had provoked an attack by Cantona on Simmons which led to the footballer being convicted of assault, ordered to perform community service and suspended from the sport for eight months.

The magistrates rejected Simmons's evidence that he had not sworn at Cantona, but had engaged in "banter" like "any normal fan". Unlike any normal defendant, Simmons reacted to his conviction by attacking the prosecutor, Jeffrey McCann, as the lawyer was asking the court to ban Simmons from attending football grounds for a year.

Simmons grabbed Mr McCann round the neck, attempted to haul him over a fence, and tried to kick him. As police overpowered the defendant, he shouted out: "I am innocent. I promise, I swear on the Bible," and informed the occupants of the press bench that they were "scum".

Fortunately, Mr McCann was not seriously injured. With a degree of fairness that characterises a good prosecutor, Mr McCann told the court that he had no intention of pressing charges against Simmons. For the Selhurst Park offence, Simmons was fined £500, ordered to pay £200 costs and banned from football grounds for 12 months. For his attack on Mr McCann, Simmons was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for contempt of court. Because an offender only has to serve half of a short sentence, and because prisoners cannot be released from custody at weekends, Simmons in fact served less than 24 hours of his sentence.

Advocacy can be a dangerous profession for reasons additional to the stress of responding to the conflicting demands of clients, opponents and judges. One of the functions of the law of contempt is to protect advocates from the aggression of opposing parties and witnesses whom they have cross-examined. (Lawyers are normally left to deal as best they are able with the anger or disappointment of their own clients.)

On occasion, advocates have been seriously injured for performing their professional duties. In 1899, Fernand Labori, the lawyer acting for Alfred Dreyfus at his second court martial, was shot and badly wounded on his way to the courtroom. In 1988, a man whose

family had been murdered by the Nazis threw acid in the face of an Israeli defence lawyer who was representing John Demjanjuk, accused, and eventually acquitted, of mass murder as "Ivan the Terrible" at Treblinka concentration camp. In such circumstances, the criminal law provides adequate general sanctions.

Where aggression in court disrupts proceedings, but causes no serious injury, then the matter is usually dealt with by punishment for contempt of court. In 1971, the Appellate Court of Illinois dismissed an appeal by a defendant who punched the Assistant State Attorney on the nose when he was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He received a further six months' imprisonment for contempt of court. *Borrie and Lowe's The Law of Contempt* reports that in 1979, in the Court of Appeal, a litigant in person who had lost his case "hit opposing counsel on the head with a can of water and for this serious contempt he was imprisoned for three months".

The problem faced by the magistrates at Croydon was that under Section 12 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the maximum period for which they may send a person to prison for contempt by interrupting the proceedings or otherwise misbehaving in court is one month. (The 1974 Phillimore Report, which recommended that this power be conferred on magistrates, suggested that the maximum sentence should be seven days.) In this context, magistrates do not have their general power to imprison offenders for up to six months. So even if Simmons had received the maximum sentence, he would have been released from prison after two weeks.

Simmons's case demonstrates that the limited powers of magistrates are inadequate. Parliament should confer power on the magistrates' court to imprison for contempt for up to six months. A physical attack by a defendant in a criminal trial on a prosecutor performing his or her duties is a serious contempt even if no injuries are caused. The proper administration of justice demands that people like Simmons are made to understand that if they cannot control their aggression in court, and if they endanger the welfare of those who are enforcing the law of the land, they will lose their liberty for longer than a few days. Simmons is very fortunate to have escaped a substantial penalty for a professional foul.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## Bang to rights

LORD Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, last week restated his support for incorporating a Bill of Rights into UK law. The only alternative, he said, was to make judges arbiters of our rights. But the "central difficulty is that, while the fundamental importance of human rights is almost always universally recognised, the nature and content of the rights is not". In his view, the protection of rights could best be secured if they were "crystallised in a democratic Bill of Rights".

Lord Irvine was speaking after Sir John Laws, the High Court judge, delivered an erudite address on the Constitution: Power and Principle on the occasion of the annual Mishcon de Reya, solicitors to the Princess of Wales.

**Board games**  
RECORD numbers of trainee solicitors were entered by law firms this year for the Prospects Cup Competition — a business game for trainees in

## INNS AND OUTS



Cherie Booth, QC, new post

which young lawyers pit their skills against counterparts in industry, commerce, finance and government. They meet as a board to decide the best strategy for managing their business in competition with four rival companies.

The cup is run in association with the University of East Anglia and — among others — the Higher Education Careers Services (CSU), publishers of the Prospects graduate recruitment directories. This year teams of train-

ees from two law firms were among the winners: Martineau Johnson, the Birmingham firm, and Lovell White Durrant. The teams were presented with rose bowls, two new awards for the most successful teams among the big and small law firms sponsored by *The Times*.

### Tony awards

NEXT year's Bar conference might just feature a visit from Britain's next Prime Minister. Cherie Booth, QC, is hard at work helping the Bar Council to organise this year's conference in her capacity as vice-chairwoman of the events organising committee. By tradition, the committee's vice chairman or woman one year takes the chair the next. If Ms Booth takes on that job, a supportive appearance by her husband must be on the cards. After all, she turns up to his conferences.

● Lawyers are expected to be out in force on Thursday for the Wilde Septe City of

London road race. About 2,000 runners from firms and businesses throughout the City have entered the 3.5-mile race to raise money for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Among the high-profile lawyers expected to turn out are the Bar Council chairman David Penry-Davey, QC, and Anne Rafferty, QC, Criminal Bar Association chairwoman.

### Tight briefs

WOMEN solicitors are learning what men have known for years. If you want to dress properly for the City, only a handmade suit will do. Imratz Khaliq, of Yours Suitably, for example, has more than 20 City women solicitors on her books. She is used to working within the strict dress code. She says: "A tight brief often means you can be more creative."

Take one client, Sheila Siminon of Clyde & Co, who credits Ms Khaliq with transforming her image. Ms Khaliq says: "Every time she comes in wanting a sober black suit, I try to ensure she leaves with something more adventurous. She even has two green suits in her wardrobe."

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# Awaiting a call to the Bar

**Derek Wheatley, QC, urges the Bar Council to rethink its plan to defer entry to the Bar**

The moment of "call" to the Bar is the profession's public recognition that a person is qualified to practise as a barrister. The Bar Council wants to change the way new entrants to the Bar are "called" and to extend the qualifying period. Under the proposals, aspiring barristers will now not only have to pass the exams and eat the dinners, but complete a period of pupillage — or traineeship in chambers — as well. At present he or she passes the exams, eats the dinners, and is then eligible for Call — but cannot appear in court and so make money until after the first six or 12 months of compulsory pupillage.



If the wig fits: a barrister in the making gets ready to work, but will there be enough jobs to go round?

Why the change? The Bar has just extended the number of institutions that can teach Bar students, and is now worried the profession will be flooded with too many barristers for whom there will be too little work — the uncertain financial rewards have not prevented some glamour from attaching to the Bar as a profession. The new decision disregards several thousand employed barristers. There was no prior consultation with their associations and the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (BACFI) was also unrepresented on the working party on Deferral of Call. It could mean a slow path for the recruitment of barristers, rather than solicitors, into company legal departments. There are insufficient pupil-lages available even for those who wish to practise at the Bar. The

report of the working party of February 4 recognises that for employed barristers at least, "... the Bar will not be willing to provide a sufficient number of pupil-lages in chambers to accommodate them". The suggested alternative, that they should obtain pupil-lages with employed barristers and so qualify for Call, simply will not work. There never have been more than a handful of employers willing to pay students to learn about the law in their legal departments and at their expense. Pupillage — going around with an established barrister to the courts and sitting with him in his chambers doing paper work — is very important for those who wish to practise in the courts. It teaches the novice the tricks of the trade — how to cross-examine a witness;

how (and how not) to address a judge. But it is of little relevance to barristers who do not go into private practice. I have been a pupil, a pupil master six times, and then, as chief legal adviser to Lloyds Bank, an employer of lawyers myself. For any young person who has always wanted to advise ICI or Unilever, it is certainly not essential, and may actually be a waste of time and money. He or she will be able to get along very well without knowing how to find the Robing Room at West London County Court or the practical application of every aspect of the Criminal Evidence Act. Far worse is the stark fact that there are not nearly enough barristers qualified and willing to become pupil masters. In the year to last October, 1,593 students were called

to the Bar, but the Bar Council estimates that there were only about 800 pupil masters available for them and 400 vacancies as tenants in chambers. What happens to the rest? They used to be able to get a job, either because that was what they wanted or because they had to. Not so in the future. A further complication is that the new proposals appear to discriminate indirectly against minority groups. The Bar Council is worried about it. Niall Morison, the chief executive, says that the Bar Council has instructed leading counsel to advise it on "any question of indirect discrimination as a result of the decision". From the point of view of employed barristers, of whom 2,483 pay subscriptions to the Bar Council, hoping it will "represent their

interests"; it will be a blessing if Deferral of Call is never implemented. Fortunately, it may not be. The Bar Council maintained that its proposal did not require approval from the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee (ACLEC) under the Schedule 4 procedure. ACLEC did not agree, and said so in a letter last December. After a Bar Council meeting last Saturday was told counsel had advised the proposal was discriminatory, it will now be hard-pushed to give satisfactory answers to ACLEC and has arranged a special meeting on June 8 to try to find a way out. There is still hope for barristers in business; perhaps even that they are no longer an endangered species. The author is vice-president of BACFI and is in private practice at the Bar.

## Sport lawyers have to tackle serious issues

# A whole new ball game

With so much money now in the sports industry, everyone wants their slice of the action. Athletes, clubs and governing bodies are battling it out with each other and with the broadcasters, agents, sponsors and marketing men. There is no such thing as "sports law" but there are plenty of sports lawyers; and many of them were in London last Wednesday for a conference on "player power". Organised by the sports law firm Townleys, and bringing together such luminaries as the Brussels firm Forrester Norall & Sutton, and leading US sports lawyers Wendel, Christen & Parks, the conference embodied the impending state of crisis within sport. If these were all straightforward business transactions conducted under normal UK, US and European law, it might be fairly clear-cut. The problem is that sport genuinely creates circumstances which, many consider, are ill-served by mainstream law.

Many other sports lawyers — especially those who represent governing bodies — are sympathetic. Philip Stinson of Collyer-Bristow even speculates upon giving the Olympic Games the status of a State complete with its courts and legal system.

However, what the IOC wants this summer may not have force in law. Those lawyers who act for individual sports personalities are already deeply concerned about the "restraint of trade" which they claim many governing bodies wish to impose. Entrusting governing bodies with even more absolute powers would be entirely unacceptable. Stephen Townley, a British sport law expert, has argued for some time that the challenge for sports administrators is that they are now running big businesses, not amateur sideshows. Managed correctly they can be highly successful. Badly administered and they will switch off sponsors, broadcasters and the public alike.



Bosman: just the start

The so-called Bosman case (in which Jean-Marc Bosman went to the European Court of Justice to oppose the restrictions on European players imposed by Uefa) has plunged sports administrators and their legal advisers into consternation. No one is sure any longer about some of the fundamentals which structured the way commercial sport operates. Bosman, however, is just the start. Charles Woodhouse of Farrer & Co, who advises a number of governing bodies, believes that the International Olympic Committee was basically right to require athletes participating in Atlanta to waive their normal legal rights and subject themselves, in effect, to the jurisdiction of the "Olympic courts". He says: "The problem is that if, after the Olympics, athletes were to sue their governing bodies it is likely to cost millions and that is all money lost to sport. What has been proposed for at Atlanta is in the best interests of the Olympic movement at large."

Nick Bittel of the law firm Max Bittel Greene is a leading sports administrator (chief executive of the London Marathon) and acts for several individual athletes and major events. He also once owned a league football club, so he can see the issues from several angles. He has been particularly exercised by the doping cases in athletics where he feels governing bodies' rules are so stark as to be clumsy. He says: "Where you have draconian consequences for drug offences you are inviting bitter legal fights. There are other ways of handling these issues which are going to be better for the sport in the long run."

There is no question that if sport grows increasingly commercial the lawyers will have a bigger part to play. However, there is now a danger that badly advised sports administrators may tie themselves and their sports up in legal knots unless some of the major issues are solved soon.

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**INSOLVENCY** £30-38,000  
One of the largest and highest profile London insolvency practices seeks a bright, self-motivated 1-3 year qualified insolvency specialist. You should have a mix of commercial and non-commercial experience and you must be willing to assume personal responsibility for a number of cases and matters at an early stage. (Ref:6981)

**BANKING & FINANCE** TO £50,000  
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**IN-HOUSE TAX** TO £70,000  
Prestigious UK securities house seeks the lawyer who will join multidisciplinary team advising on the creation and structuring of new products for international clients. 3-5 years' experience of tax in a City firm is essential, but previous structured finance experience is not. Opportunities for significant international travel if desired. (Ref:7133)

**EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS** £28-40,000  
Dynamic employment team, with excellent client base, a focused and strategic plan for growth and high quality work, seeks two lawyers with real enthusiasm for this area of law. Sound academics are as important as a body and confident manner. Candidates require at least six months' relevant experience. All necessary training and support will be provided. (Ref:5051)

**IT/COMMERCIAL** STOP CITY  
As a UK based world leader in global communications this client has a product range which gives rise to a host of demanding legal issues. Opening offices for 1-4 year qualified City lawyer with strong IT/commercial skills to handle work relating to all areas of the business. Good academic background essential, as well as strong outside interests and a down to earth approach. (Ref:7086)

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** TO £38,000  
Smaller, central London firm, with informal work environment and a strong reputation for its commercial property practice, seeks an additional solicitor at the 2-4 year qualified level. Candidates should have a sound grounding in landlord and tenant work, and will be acting for institutions and property companies, advising on acquisitions and disposals as well as commercial lease. (Ref:6252)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Jonathan Brenner, Yasmin Phillips or Sally Horrox (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk



## ZMB

IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE TIMES  
SPRING 1996 SALARY SURVEY

We are delighted to announce that the Spring 1996 Salary Survey for lawyers working in private practice and in-house is now available. Whether you manage lawyers or are seeking advice in relation to your own salary package, please contact us. Complimentary copies may be obtained by writing to Wendy Fletcher at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PY.

## CORPORATE FINANCE PARTNERSHIP

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**CORDIANT** AGM and the co-ordinating of brand name registration and instructing trade mark agents, the preparation of circulars and other regulatory matters. As well as core secretarial skills, legal experience would be of great interest as a certain amount of contract, employment and property work may be involved.

Applications are welcomed from either Chartered Secretaries or Lawyers with relevant employment experience, spanning this mix of company secretarial and legal work. An attractive salary package is offered for this appointment.

For further details please contact Fiona Boxall or Jane Wallace or send them your CV.

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**EMPLOYMENT** To £47,000  
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Marsden, Seamus Hoar or Stephen Rodney (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-226 4392 or 0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail jonathan@qdrec.com

**IN-HOUSE - CO/CO** To £Competitive  
Leading leisure industry Plc based in Scotland, is seeking a 0-2 years' exp company/commercial lawyer with either City or provincial training. Assisting the group's Legal Adviser you will be exposed to a broad range of work including secured and unsecured lending and real estate acquisitions and disposals. An excellent opportunity to consolidate your previous experience in a leading in-house position. Ref: T21666

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We want to hear from people with a good grasp of fundamental legal principles and practice. You'll need a sound academic background (a good 2:2 upwards) and between 0 and 3 years' post-qualification experience. There are no hard and fast rules on where you gained it - possibly in an area such as domestic finance, general corporate or commercial. Our client is open minded. Real interest in international work and a willingness to learn new skills are essential.

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# LAWYERS

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All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## McCann FitzGerald SOLICITORS

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Stephenson Harwood is an international law firm headquartered in London with six overseas offices. Worldwide it employs more than 500 people. It has enjoyed controlled expansion throughout the 1990s, with a focus on developing its international business most recently by opening an office in Singapore.

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Members of this group serve the legal needs of the financial services and investment industry and advise clients on the structuring and marketing of investment products and services. Many of the clients are international and the group is often involved in project managing a transaction or product launch, which involves bringing together the commercial, regulatory and tax expertise of the group and other advisers worldwide.

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If you would like to find out more, please call Denis Reed on 0171 329 4422 or write to him at Stephenson Harwood, One, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH.

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Write for an application form, enclosing an SAE, to: Miss Jane Wildman, Mitre House Chambers, 44 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1BN. Completed application forms must be returned to us by Friday 31st May 1996.

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Divine talent touched a generation Simply the Best brought down by mere mortals

David Miller says a human tragedy off the pitch must not detract from a true genius on it



In a BBC2 interview broadcast on Sunday to celebrate George Best's fiftieth birthday this week, Michael Parkinson, the presenter who covered some football in his early journalistic days, suggested that Best was a remarkable man. The truth, and the difficulty for Best in the failed attempt to handle his meteoric rise to fame, is that he was exceptional only when playing football.

Stones, unrestricted wages and free love. Yet, with a football at his feet, Best shares an equal place with the other five supreme players of my lifetime - Matthews, Di Stefano, Pelé, Cruyff and Maradona. There have been many other great players, such as Finney, Fuskas, Garrincha, Eusebio, Charlton and Beckenbauer, but the supreme six did things that were unimaginable until you saw them being done.

We should offer sympathy.

'He was the ultimate hostage to fortune'

not condemnation, that Best and Maradona, confronted by commercial glamour and gargantuan media greed, have succumbed to mortal vulnerability. Commentators have leeringly, almost enviously, talked of how many girls Best has bedded. We should rather remember how many full backs he buried.

and again. He was fantasy brought to life, and performed with such bravery and such flourish as to seem insolently affronted.

Danny Blanchflower, as shrewd an analyst as any, conceded that Best's arrogance was fundamental to his performance, and judged him supreme because "he offers the greatest surprise to mind and eye, the more refined and unexpected range... with utter disregard of physical danger". There was no aspect of the game of which he was not master: creating, heading, scoring with either foot, even tackling, slight though he was.

He could ride the harshest tackles with uncanny balance and his changes of direction at close quarters defied understanding. "It seems impossible to hurt him," Joe Mercer said. Malcolm Allison's opinion was that "Best in possession is second only to Pelé".



Best came close to perfection as an untouchable winger who scored dazzling goals

pedantically asked what was the time in the match. A colleague poignantly observed: "Never mind the time, just make a note of the date." To the end of his curtailed serious career, aged only 27, Best remained at heart a boy, joyously ruled by his love for the game, by the intoxication of his own skills and his longing for the next game. It was the one way he truly

expressed himself, and the expression was often poetic. Sadly, he never matured, emotionally. A combination of physical abuse by frustrated opponents, the laxity of referees and his own petulance on the field, plus his emotional frailty off the field in conjunction with the managerial turmoil at Old Trafford after Sir Matt Busby's retirement as manager in 1969, brought the

premature decline of a glorious gift. His first wife, Angela, mother of the son with whom he remains in contact, has said that she could not look after two babies, and the older one had to go. It is a harsh summation of a player with divine abilities. Any caring sportsman will understand how Best was too brilliant for his own good. A genius without boundaries, in every sense.

Farrell set to take on captain's role for England

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ANDREW FARRELL, 21 next week, is the favourite to take over the captaincy of the England rugby league team today from Shaun Edwards, his Wigan club captain. Edwards was omitted from the squad for the visit of France to Gateshead in the European championship on June 12.

Farrell became the youngest Great Britain forward when, at 18, he made his international debut against New Zealand in 1993. His sound pack leadership and temperament are qualities that Phil Larder, the England coach, will want to test, with Britain's autumn tour of New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji in mind. Bobbie Goulding, of St Helens, is another candidate for the captaincy. However, with the possibility that Edwards might be recalled at scrum half for the Wales game, in Cardiff on June 26, Farrell is the settled and younger alternative, ahead of two other stalwart claimants, Daryl Powell and Karl Harrison.

Richard Webster, of Salford, the former Swansea and Wales rugby union forward, is the latest player to agree to play union for part of the winter. He will link up at Orrell next season, provided insurance arrangements can be made, with Frano Botica, of Castleford, and David Lyon, of St Helens.

More intriguing possibilities on cross-code deals have been raised by Wigan, ahead of the second challenge match with Bath at Twickenham on Saturday, with an agreement that their players can now play both codes. Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said: "It will be better if the Super League is extended next year to give us more fixtures; in the meantime, we will be prepared to let players go to union for a couple of months."

Salford yesterday signed David Myers, the former Brian Wing, for an undisclosed fee from Bradford Bulls, who are near to completing the purchase of Stuart Spruce, the Widnes and Britain full back.



Farrell: right qualities

Absentees to face disciplinary hearing

JULIE BRADBURY, Joanne Wright and Simon Archer face punishment from the International Badminton Federation (IBF) for their refusal to play for their country in the Thomas and Uber Cups world team finals in Hong Kong this week.

The actions of the three leading England players, who preferred to remain at home and prepare for the Olympic Games, will be discussed later this week by the IBF's disciplinary committee. England's women were beaten 5-0 by Korea in the Uber Cup yesterday.

Amateur entry

Golf: Sergio Garcia, the 16-year-old Spaniard who recently played all four rounds of the Spanish Open, is among players from 21 countries contesting the Amateur Championship at Turnberry from June 3-8. The winner will knock his place in the Open in July and the Masters next April.

Lisa Dermott, the holder, meets Pamela Chugg in the semi-final of the Welsh women's championship at Tenby today. Vicki Thomas and Eleanor Pilgrim contest the other semi-final.

Second fiddle

Tennis: Thomas Muster, the holder, has been seeded second behind the world No. 1, Pete Sampras, for the French Open, which starts next Monday. Steffi Graf, the defending champion, is the women's top seed, ahead of her co-world No. 1, Martina Hingis, a three-time French Open winner, who will play her first European tournament since a spectator stabbed her in Hamburg three years ago when she appears in the Spanish Open starting in Madrid today.

Testing case

Athletics: Paul Edwards, the British shot putter who was banned for four years after two positive drugs tests in 1994, has had his case referred "without comment" to the International Amateur Athletic Association by the British Athletic Federation. Edwards has been seeking to have his case reopened, claiming new evidence.

Zanini leads

Cycling: Stefano Zanini took the lead in the Tour of Italy yesterday but was outspurred at the end of the 194-kilometre third stage from Messolunga to Ioannina, Greece, by his Italian compatriot, Giovanni Lombardi. Zanini was third and second in the first two stages.

Coulthard's renaissance fuels grand prix rumour mill

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MONTE CARLO

THE French newspapers seemed almost as shocked as Olivier Paris had been on the winner's rostrum when they hit the streets here yesterday morning. "Paris? Unbelievable. L'Equipe said, "Paris surprised" was the headline in two others. As he flicked through them in his Monaco apartment, David Coulthard was still trying to get over his disbelief.

"No disrespect to Olivier," Coulthard said, "but it would probably have felt better to have finished second to a Williams or a Ferrari than to a Ligier. He drove a brilliant race and I know from experience that he does not make many mistakes, but still, you can't help thinking what might have been." Coulthard finished a close second to Paris in the Monaco grand prix here on Sunday, robbed only by the Frenchman's quicker pit-stop mid-

way through the race that put him in the perfect position to capitalise on the mechanical misfortunes suffered by the previous race leaders, Damon Hill and Jean Alesi. Nevertheless, Coulthard's second consecutive podium finish confirmed the steady recovery of his McLaren-Mercedes team and shot him to the fore of early-season speculation about driver movements.

The young Scot is used to the rumour mill that feeds Formula One all year round, having switched from Williams to his new team last year. Last weekend, rumours in the chaotic Monaco paddock suggested that his own renaissance was progressing so rapidly that he might be a target for the Stewart grand prix team that will Formula One next year.

Coulthard was part of Jackie Stewart's famous "staircase of talent" when he raced for him in Formula 3000. Both Stewart and his engine suppliers, Ford, are thought to be

bought him some more time. Alesi is also thought to have contacted his former mentor and team manager, Eddie Jordan, in case he is sacked by Benetton. Martin Brundle, the Englishman, is struggling to find his feet with the Irish team.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Dealer South Love all

You win the ace of spades, and the hand looks easy - five tricks in each of hearts and clubs, and the ace of spades. At tricks two and three you cash two top hearts. When East turns out to have the guarded jack, you have to be careful about how you cross to dummy. Say you play a small club to the queen. You continue by taking the marked finesse in hearts and drawing the last trump, but now when you try the king of clubs the blockage means that you can't run the club suit, and so you have to go down.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT Spanish Armada

By Philip Howard WORD-WATCHING

By Raymond Keene WINNING MOVE

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LATIMER a. A non-speaking actor b. An interpreter c. A grey-white watercolour

LIMMA a. A sea monster b. A semitone c. A logical impossibility

MEDIASTINUM a. A partition b. A suringer c. To confuse

Answers on page 45









Rush takes on challenge of reviving Leeds

By Peter Ball

IAN RUSH'S supremely successful 16 years with Liverpool ended formally yesterday. The Wales international forward signed for Leeds United on a two-year contract, worth an estimated £1 million.

people will see that we mean business. Thus the Leeds revival is to be built upon a 34-year-old free transfer signing - but that is not the whole story.

Tribal warfare ..... 8 Divine talent ..... 43

Few will question his capability or his continuing desire to do so. The queue of clubs eager to persuade Rush, who scored 346 goals in 660 games for Liverpool, to join them covered four continents.

England lose Wright through knee injury

TERRY VENABLES, the England manager, lost another defender from his calculations yesterday (Peter Ball writes). A scan revealed that Mark Wright had sustained ligament damage in the knee injury he suffered against Hungary at Wembley on Saturday, and he has been ruled out of the European championship.

Liverpool, said last night, "but there is no way that he will be able to take any part." The injury had already ruled Wright out of the tour of the Far East but, until the scan, it had been hoped that ultrasound treatment might be enough to enable him to play next month.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

ACROSS: 1 Famous trial, eg of Dreyfus (5,7) 8 Thin oval nut; some eyes this shape (6) 9 (Drawn to play) against (6) 10 Once-falsh London district (4) 12 (Turmoil, flood) abate (7) 14 Bullfighter (7) 15 Solemn pledge (4) 17 Royal house of James, Charles (6) 18 Shape-changing protozoan (6) 20 Suffocation (12)



Min Patel, the Kent spinner, lures Essex to their doom at Valentine's Park, Ilford, yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge. Report, page 44



Reeve tosses away spirit of the game

By Pat Gibson

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Hampshire (22pts) bt Warwickshire (4) by 122 runs

DERMOT REEVE has gone to all sorts of lengths to lead Warwickshire to six trophies in his first three years as captain, but there has been nothing quite as outrageous as the spoiling tactic he adopted to try to stave off defeat by Hampshire yesterday.

out of the rough to clip the pad and glove, resulting in catches to the close fielders. Reeve, knowing that a batsman cannot be out caught off the glove if he is not holding the bat, countered that by thrusting his left pad at the ball and, just before it arrived, throwing his bat in the direction of silly point where it landed within feet of White.

Reeve did it 15 times when he was facing Maru during his 28 overs at the crease before, by a supreme irony, he was out to the first ball after tea - caught behind off James, bowling his left-arm swing over the wicket into the rough.

glove and I was seeing the ball well enough to know when to drop the bat. Malcolm Marshall [Leeds Hampshire coach] told me he thought it was a very sensible tactic.

Marshall was probably speaking with tongue firmly in cheek and Maru, who had never experienced anything like it in his 16 years of county cricket, was not sanguine.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Hampshire and Warwickshire scores, batsmen, and bowlers.

It may have been within the laws, but surely not within the spirit of the game. However, since Law 42 states that captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within that spirit there was nothing anyone could do about the antics of the Warwickshire captain. Perhaps Lord's should look into the matter.

Apart from anything else, Reeve's performance overshadowed what was a magnificent and quite unexpected victory by a Hampshire side which went into the match without Stephenson, the captain, and Udell, the off-spinner. They then lost Smith, Stephenson's deputy, and finished up without Benjamin, the over-seas player.

It was Benjamin who made the early inroads into the Warwickshire batting when they began yesterday needing a further 350 to win with all their wickets in hand. He bowled Khan and had Ostler caught behind in a vibrant opening spell and it seemed ominous for Hampshire when he went off with a damaged shoulder after lunch. By then Knight and Penney were putting together a third-wicket partnership of 73 which was turning Warwickshire's thoughts towards an improbable victory. Then Milburn bowled Knight and, after Pollock had top-edged a catch to fine leg off Maru, Reeve made his intentions perfectly obvious. Fortunately he did not prevail. Once Penney had been bowled by Connor after batting almost four hours, the seamers did the rest, although only nine balls remained when Connor had Brown caught behind.

Deal gives Lewis the upper hand

By Srikanth Sen Boxing Correspondent

AFTER being sidelined for two years by boxing politics, Lennox Lewis suddenly finds the political ball at his feet. As a result of one of the most bizarre deals ever thrashed out in boxing by the lawyers of Lewis and Mike Tyson in New York last week, it is now the turn of Tyson and Don King, his promoter, to wait on Lewis.

Lewis even though serious flaws in the Briton's defence were exposed by Ray Mercer in New York recently, Tyson does not want to defend against Lewis for another four months at least.

Lewis's financial backer, Panos Eliades, said yesterday: "The only reason this deal was done by Tyson is because he is afraid of fighting Lennox next and that's why he's paid more step-aside money [\$6 million, to enable Tyson to fight Bruce Seldon] than is known in the history of boxing."

Lewis said that his most likely course would be to meet Bowe first in September in Las Vegas, then challenge for the title some time in December or early next year. If, after seeing Lewis against Bowe,

Tyson still wants to give up the title, Lewis's opponent will be Oliver McCall. Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, is expected in London this week for discussions. If Newman signs, Lewis will meet Bowe first. "Casinos in Las Vegas are prepared to pay colossal sums for this fight," Eliades said. Lewis and Bowe can expect to share \$40-50 million (£25-£33 million) equally. "I would favour Bowe first," Lewis said, "but I have to find out if Bowe wants to fight me."

"It's about time the Bowe-Lewis got underway. It's been stagnating for such a long time. The public always wanted to see that fight." As purse bids for the WBC title must be in by July 15, Lewis has to make his decision by July 6.

Montgomery gets back on course

John Hopkins sees the Scot return to triumph at the scene of Sunday's disaster

SOMETIMES, shock treatment is the best treatment and so, perhaps, it was necessary for Colin Montgomery to have to retrace his steps to The Oxfordshire golf club yesterday and play a round over the course on which he had collapsed so humiliatingly on Sunday afternoon.

In his nine years as a professional, Montgomery had not had many scores as high as 84. It was no consolation for him that Ian Woosnam had an 82, Bernhard Langer a 79 and Nick Faldo an 80. For Montgomery, the world No 3, to balloon to a round of 12 over par, and in doing so throw away the three-stroke lead that he had held after the third round, was astonishing. Montgomery's dismal Sunday afternoon was compounded when he was penalised two strokes under rule 13-4 for "testing the condition of a hazard" by kicking sand in a bunker on the 13th. "Oh, great, that's all I needed," Montgomery said. "Is there any more you could add on?" The Scot was frustrated at finding that his ball was plugged, even though it had bounced before it entered the bunker.

It would have been worse for Montgomery if he had lost again. He might have had difficulty facing himself in the mirror for a while. Club golfers, furthermore, would have accused him of being molly-coddled and of not being capable of coping with the sort of conditions that they face regularly. For several hours on the day when the first four matches of the Anderson Consulting world championship matches were played, it looked as though Montgomery was going to be beaten by Costantino Rocca and be given a second consecutive day to forget. Help, however, was at hand.

"If you can't get motivated at the thought of winning \$1 million [£671,000 - the first prize] then there's a problem," Montgomery said. And he had his pride to consider, too. Thus it was that, though two down to the Italian after the 7th, Montgomery had levelled by the 10th. He went one up by birdying the 17th, two strokes better than on Sunday, and halved the 18th. "It was important for me to win today," Montgomery said after qualifying to meet Langer in the this morning's regional semi-finals of a competition that ends in Arizona early next year. It had helped to erase the memories of Sunday from his mind. The shock treatment had worked.



Montgomery recovered

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Handwritten text in Arabic script.

# Liberal bargains with Yeltsin for leadership role

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A YOUNG, charismatic and popular Russian politician has manoeuvred himself into the role of kingmaker in the country's presidential elections next month.

With President Yeltsin and Gennadi Zyuganov, his main Communist rival, running neck-and-neck in the polls, Grigori Yavlinsky, the candidate for the liberal Yabloko party is being courted for his small but loyal following which could tip the scales on polling day.

Mr Yavlinsky, 44, an economist, may not stand a hope of winning the election, but if his negotiations with Mr Yeltsin are successful he could land the post of Prime Minister and designate himself as Russia's next leader.

Mr Yavlinsky opened the bidding with a letter to Mr Yeltsin last week, setting out his terms for supporting the President's re-election bid. He demanded that Mr Yeltsin dismisses, by next Saturday, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Nikolai Yegorov, his Chief of Staff.

He also sought changes to the Government's economic programme, such as a higher

minimum wage and lower taxes, and new talks to end the conflict in Chechnya.

President Yeltsin wasted no time in responding positively to the offer. In an interview on Siberian television on Sunday, he said he was considering replacing "the greater part of the government team" with "fresher people" and "new ideas". He said: "I agree that maybe it is worth slightly reinforcing our programme with parts of other candidates' platforms, and this is quite possible. Why, for example, not take all the interesting ideas which Yavlinsky proposed? ... Why not take those of other candidates?"

The Kremlin leader's conciliatory tone towards his rivals has more to do with opinion-poll figures than his sudden conversion to their policies. The most recent figures give Mr Yeltsin a narrow lead over Mr Zyuganov: they each have about a quarter of the electorate's support.

Mr Yeltsin is clearly eyeing Mr Yavlinsky's nearly 10 per cent following. He has also had talks with two other presidential candidates General Aleksandr Lebed, a former paratrooper with about 5 per cent support, and Svyatoslav Fyodorov, an eye surgeon with about 3 per cent. If

the three candidates and their supporters could be co-opted into a presidential coalition against the Communists, Mr Yeltsin could count on a comfortable victory.

For Mr Yavlinsky, who is inexperienced in government, an alliance with Mr Yeltsin might be distasteful but highly rewarding. If he clinched the job of Prime Minister he would, in effect, become Russia's President-in-waiting.

The pre-election tactics have clearly unsettled the other participants. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, struggling to get his campaign off the ground, warned Mr Yavlinsky that the offer was a "trap". The Communists tried to put a brave face on the prospect of others uniting against them. Mr Zyuganov said Mr Yavlinsky's political career would end if he teamed up with Mr Yeltsin.

□ **Vladivostok:** A bomb was found and defused in a campaign centre for President Yeltsin after a telephone caller gave a warning that the building was about to be blown up. Interfax news agency said yesterday. Police and army troops sealed off the building in Ussuriysk, a city in Russia's Far East region. The remote-control explosive device was found in the attic. (AP)



Düsseldorf public transport workers, one with a mobile phone, on picket duty at the German city's tram depot yesterday. Throughout the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heartland, 100,000 striking

## Warning strike hits Ruhr

workers stopped trains and buses, and refused to clear dustbins or to deliver letters (Roger Boyes writes). The

warning strike by public sector unions in North Rhine Westphalia lasted only a few hours but disrupt-

ed work in thousands of offices and factories and hinted at what might happen if the trade union leadership carries out its threat to call a general strike in pursuit of a 4.5 per cent pay rise.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Eta blamed for death of soldier

A Spanish army sergeant, Miguel Angel Ayllón Díaz-González was killed in Córdoba by a bomb blamed on the Basque terrorist group Eta (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The blast, in Carlos III Avenue, was the first violence by Eta since José María Aznar's Government took power. Another soldier and two civilians were hurt. Police believe a military bus had been the intended target.

### Hutu jail raid

Kigali: Suspected Hutu rebels attacked a village in Karengera village, southwestern Rwanda, and freed more than 50 inmates who were among 71,000 Hutu genocide suspects in the country's jails. (Reuters)

### Crocodile dare

Kuala Lumpur: Khalil Yaakob, chief minister of Malaysia's central state of Pahang, swam in Paya Bungor Lake to kill a rumour that it was infested with crocodiles and promote it for tourism. (AFP)

### Taking a break

Sao Paulo: Forty-seven Brazilian prisoners, over half the inmates in a Sao Paulo police precinct, tunneled to freedom while their wardens were watching television. Twelve were recaptured. (Reuters)

### Motorway fumes

Cologne: Twenty-three people were taken to hospital with breathing problems after chlorine gas leaked from an overturned lorry on a German motorway near here. Others were treated at the scene. (Reuters)

### Power struggle

Colombo: Sri Lanka's electricity authority has launched a non-stop prayer campaign for rain at its main hydro-electricity generating station. The country faces a total blackout by next week. (AFP)

### Mood music

Montreux: A troupe of 15 desert nomad musicians and dancers from Niger who are to perform at the Montreux Jazz Festival in July will be paid one cow each, a festival spokesman said. (AFP)

## Auctioneers eye estate of Grace

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



Princess Grace: charity to help young artists

NEW YORK auctioneers, still astonished by the \$34.5 million (£22.5 million) success of last month's Jackie Onassis sale, were in a buzz yesterday at the possibility that the Grimaldis of Monaco may sell possessions of the late Princess Grace.

The Princess's son, Albert, is visiting Manhattan and was reported to be sympathetic towards the idea of a sale, for charity, of items owned by his mother.

A Monaco diplomatic official declined to comment on a suggestion that he would

meet representatives from auction houses, including Sotheby's, which held the Onassis sale. A source indicated that 5,000 items had been identified as being suitable for sale. London could vie with New York as an auction location.

Grace Kelly, as the actress was known before marrying into the Royal Family of Monte Carlo, remains a big star in the United States. Her cachet as an American who wed European royalty, combined with her beauty and mystique, would ensure interest in any auction. She died in a car accident in 1962.

Sotheby's was silent yesterday and Christie's could not say if any meeting had been organised with Prince Albert. Proceeds from a sale could help the Princess Grace Foundation, a charity established in her memory to help young artists.

Joseph Keefe, vice-president of the American National Auctioneers' Association, said yesterday: "A Princess Grace sale would have enormous appeal. We have had several inquiries precipitated by the Onassis sale. The public aspect and competitive nature of an auction is a prime advantage with celebrity sales. It brings about buying in a charged atmosphere."

## Ministers rebuff Croatia bid to join Council of Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

EUROPEAN governments have issued an unprecedented rebuff to President Tudjman by refusing to endorse a call for Croatia to be admitted to the 39-nation Council of Europe.

Next week, a full meeting of the council's parliamentary assembly in Greece will debate a call last week by European Union foreign ministers for Croatia's entry to be delayed until President Tudjman had given stronger guarantees on: human rights, press

freedom and democracy. Normally, a recommendation by the council's assembly is endorsed by member governments. But Western governments have been angered by Dr Tudjman's refusal to implement in full the Dayton accords, his crackdown on the opposition press and his attempt to annul the election of the Mayor of Zagreb and appoint instead a political ally.

At a meeting in Thessaloniki, the assembly will debate the ministers' call for a delay.

A working group is expected to draw up a list of minimum conditions for entry, including greater press freedom and a promise to co-operate with the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for Yugoslavia, as well as a timetable for their implementation.

The Tudjman Government had promised a range of democratic reforms to gain entry to the council, seen as the European yardstick of democracy and human rights. Almost none has been fulfilled.

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# Rage that can drive someone to kill

**M**ore than half of us admit to losing our temper at the wheel, reports Grace Bradberry

NINE out of ten motorists claim to have been the victims of road rage. Yet according to a survey by the Automobile Association only six out of ten admit to losing their own temper at the wheel.

This week, as detectives hunt for the driver of a Land Rover Discovery who is believed to have killed 21-year-old Stephen Lee Cameron just off the M25, drivers across Britain will be pondering the cost of such confrontations.

Until the summer of 1992, we did not even have a name for the honking, headlight flashing and tail-dogging that has become a feature of our highways. Now the term, borrowed from America, is known to everyone.

According to research carried out in Britain, the perpetrators of violence or aggression nearly always believe themselves to be the righteous victims of someone else's anti-social behaviour.

Tailgating, where motorists hug the bumper of the car in front, was experienced by 62 per cent of people in the AA survey. But only 6 per cent admitted to having done it themselves.

If we are honest, most of us will admit to having flashed our headlights in anger. Fewer of us will have made obscene gestures, deliberately obstructed another vehicle or professed verbal abuse.

The actual incidence of road rage is hard to assess. The 1996 *Law Report on Motoring* said that there were 1.8 million instances of people being forced off the road in 1995, and 800,000 cases where cars had been deliberately rammed by other cars. There were an estimated 800,000 cases of people being physically threatened, and 250,000 of actual attacks by other drivers.

But there are no official figures for road rage — they are buried in



When a driver snaps: most road users say they have suffered from this sort of behaviour, but few will admit to being guilty of losing their own temper

more general statistics and the Home Office and the Department of Transport are still considering whether to collate them specifically. In the meantime, the various psychological studies carried out rely on anecdotal evidence.

The most serious cases make headlines. Last year, Paul Gaynor, 26, was jailed for three months for head-butting a driver in East Finchley, London. Stuart Higginson, of South Wales, was jailed for brandishing a toy gun at another driver. Sean Baldwin, 18, pleaded guilty to punching and kicking a farmer who was taking his cows home for milking.

Researchers at Manchester and

Strathclyde universities believe that more minor forms of rage are on the increase. "Society has become more competitive, and that is reflected on the roads," says Professor Shirley Fisher, a psychologist at Strathclyde's Centre for Occupational and Health Psychology.

The professor has spent many hours questioning drivers at roadside cafes and sees high speeds as a major factor. "If you're driving at nearly 90, then you're already showing all the symptoms of severe stress. If someone then sticks up two fingers, you can be triggered into an amazing state of arousal."

It is not just a question of faster, better cars, she says, but of huge pressures to reach meetings on time. "Other drivers don't know your motives and they react in a very hostile way."

In the past, a minority of people might have behaved aggressively, but we have all now developed that potential. "There's a feeling that we can all be powerful now, and one place that we're competing for that power is on the road," says Professor Fisher.

There is no firm evidence to prove that either men or women are more culpable. However, research carried out by Manchester University's Driver Behaviour Research

Group found that young men were more likely to commit violations such as shooting red lights or speeding. But women over the age of 35 were also prime culprits.

It is not simply a question of flouting the Highway Code. "Driving is stressful, and it's probably becoming more stressful as we grind towards gridlock," says Dr Steve Stradling, one of the Manchester team. "From time to time, everyone feels threatened and becomes angry."

Dr Stradling has identified two personality types most likely to act out their anger. The first group contains those with a personality disorder — psychopaths.

The second group is the narcissists. These are the people who know the right way to drive and are incensed when others appear ignorant. Asked why they overtook on the inside, then slowed down to 20 miles an hour to block the road, they will insist that they were giving their victim a useful lesson.

That sort of thing has a nasty habit of escalating, Colin Johnson, 32, a telephone engineer, recalls the time that his own retaliatory driving nearly led to something much uglier.

"I was on the M3 when a high-performance Mazda came right up onto my bumper and began flashing his lights. Normally I would

pull over, but the road ahead was congested and I didn't see why I should let him past only to do the same thing 50 yards on. So I braked a bit, hoping to put him off. He came closer. Then I braked really hard. Then I decided to give up and pulled into the middle lane. He pulled in in front of me, and slowed down. I pulled into the slow lane. Again he pulled in front of me, and this time he slowed down to 15 miles an hour.

"It was dreadful. The whole road became congested as lorries tried to overtake us. I became really frightened and wondered what would happen next. I've never tried anything like it since."

Problems are not confined to the drivers of high-performance sports cars — Volvo and BMW owners can be among the worst drivers on the roads.

"The more expensive and smarter the car, the more aggressive the driver," confirms Edmund King, of the RAC. "That's particularly true of females — the woman in the BMW is much more likely to get aggressive than the one in the Ford Fiesta. There is an element of 'I'm here in my £25,000 car — who on earth do you think you are cutting me up?'"

"Cars with bull bars, like the Land Rover Discovery, also tend to lead to more aggressive driving. There is a story about a man who said he was so tired of being cut up by taxi drivers in London that once a month he would hire a Land Rover to drive around getting his revenge."

More and more of us are being sucked into this vigilante culture. "The most commonly given reason for having lost your temper is someone else's driving," says Conrad King, a psychologist and consultant to the RAC.

He believes there should be rehabilitation courses for offenders, although the Home Office remains unconvinced of the need. Mr King says: "It often takes a lot of time and effort to make people realise that the reason for their actions is their own underlying stress and aggression."

Stephen Lee Cameron may have been the tragic victim of a driver momentarily convinced that right was on his side.

## Joseph Connolly visits the Swiss clinic famous for its rejuvenating jabs

"So, I was asked on the plane, just before we touched down at Geneva, 'are you really going to have the injections?'"

Injections? Me? No fear. Why then was I going to Montreux's celebrated Clinique La Prairie? This is its speciality — its international renown over the past 65 years rests upon its programme of injected rejuvenation. Some hopefuls swear that here, within a grill, slops around the mythical elixir of life, youth, beauty and loads of other stuff generally agreed to be a mighty good thing.

Now I am as much in need of rejuvenation as the next man, but at 45 I am apparently too young (yipped) — 50, 60 or 70 is, I was told by the resident senior physician, Dr Walli, much nearer the mark.

Dr Walli scoffs at talk of an elixir of youth. The CLP Extract, as it is called, is taken (although you may not care to know this) from the foetus of an unborn lamb — largely the

## Too young at 45 for the elixir of youth

liver, with touches of kidney and spleen, and to taste. Treatment consists of four injections once a year.

He is a nice chap, Dr Walli: humorous and easygoing, and well aware that the process can be looked at askance as well as ridiculed. But he is absolutely committed to his belief in the good it can do.

"The purpose is to let people enjoy every single day of their lives just as if they were young — it is more an internal thing than a beauty treatment, although skin tone, dexterity and hair condition are very often improved."

The doctor is as coy as all expensive establishments are about who actually uses their services; he admits to Marlene



La Prairie claims Churchill and Thatcher as clients

Dietrich, Sir Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle and François Mitterrand (all of whom are safely dead). Beyond this a silence falls, but your intrepid reporter has been sniffing around and can now name some names: my unimpeachable source tells me that top of the list is none other than our very own Baroness Thatcher (a very satisfied customer, by all accounts — and let's face it, a pretty good advertisement), followed by Dr Christian Barnard, David Bowie and Diana Ross.

Sadly there are no before-and-after pictures. The doc alludes to general wellbeing — not as it turns out another illustrious client, but the almost universal outcome of the treatment.

So here I am, a guest of the place: too young to be made

younger, so what do I do? Well, there is sleep: my elegant, balconied room is in the older chalet-style building (as opposed to the very sleek and glossy state-of-the-art new one, where all the serious stuff goes on). It is an odd room — pretty luxurious (orchids, electronic bed, remote-control lights) and a bit institutional (tino floor). "Call for a nurse if you need one in the night," I said I would bear it in mind.

The food is divine, beautifully presented, every mouthful quite sublime — but I really ought to have some treatment, right? One suggested easy option was a gentle 20-minute stroll along the edge of Lake Geneva (very beautiful) to a perfect medieval castle, Château Chillon. It sounded good. Twenty minutes? It takes over two hours,

and all you are fit for on arrival is to die in a dungeon. What you need, then, they said, is exercise without the exercise — which is how I came to be strapped to an ironing board with all sorts of sensitive bits of me wired up to bleeping machinery called BeautyMed.

A pretty nurse ties you up (she speaks little English, but terror is the same in any language). The room is dim, a hushed orchestra is fiddling away at Vivaldi, and parts of you throb at random. It's a fizzy feeling.

Then they rewire you to something else that duffs up your stomach. "You don't have to do anything," they keep repeating, but a gang of muggers could get away with that line. And then it is bath time.

This huge and frothy tub is populated by small piranha fish who refuse to die: they nip, they grasp, they beat you up. You cook, your legs are rubber — you get out feeling black and blue but all you are is red. Naturally enough, none of this comes cheap: £6,000 a week is minimum, but extras (Mercedes limo from the airport for 50 minutes, £250 — hair-brushing, £25) could soon see it rise to nearer £8,000 (£10,000 with injections).

As I was leaving, a semi-ancient American guy called me over. "Hey — how many injections did you have to get hair like that?" "Just the one," I replied. "Mind you," I tacked on, spreading my arms like a mendacious angler, "it was one hell of a syringe."

Clinique La Prairie, CH-115 Clavrie-Montreux, Switzerland (00 41 21 989 3311, fax 989 3333)

## Itching for a cure

PATIENTS do not like to be told that they have a fungal infection. The term conjures up a vision of decay and damp, of mouldy cheese and evil-smelling fungi growing on rotting trees.

If people think of fungi at all in relation to medicine, it is probably only because they remember that Joe Grundy, of *The Archers*, suffers from farmer's lung, a chronic fungal condition.

Fungal infections are, in fact, very common and in particular attack the skin and mucous membranes. Fungi grow as easily on sweaty skin as mould grows on damp leather luggage. *Tinea pedis*, the foot rot often caught in the school gym or swimming pool, and *Tinea cruris*, the similar condition in the groin, are a memory of most people's childhood.

When a fungus attacks skin between the toes, it is comparatively easy to treat with an over-the-counter remedy, although reinfection is likely. Once the fungus has crept beneath the nails it becomes a more difficult problem and a long course of an anti-fungal paint such as Trosyl, or an anti-fungal preparation taken in pill form will be needed.

A fungus often gains entry to the nail bed when the nail suffers repetitive minor injury each time the foot knocks against the toe of the trainer while jogging, playing squash or tennis, or taking part in any other vigorous activity.

Even when the nail is distorted, thickened and raised, the condition described as onychomycosis, it has a 70 per cent chance of

Fungus infection can be a problem for us all

returning to normal after treatment with a course of Lamisil (terbinafine) tablets, or Sporanox (itraconazole) capsules.

The fungus *Candida albicans* causes the common disease, thrush. There is increasing evidence that



DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

women prefer to take an oral preparation rather than use pessaries and cream to treat vaginal thrush; both Sporanox and a related compound, Diflucan (fluconazole), are useful preparations and have become the drugs of choice.

Recently the medical journal *Pulse* has drawn attention to their interaction with some modern antihistamines. Care also needs to be taken when prescribing these preparations for people who are known to have liver disease, or who are heavy drinkers.

Fungi which cause ringworm in pets are also a cause of the itch which can afflict pet owners. Ringworm appears

as a raised red rash, often of a ringlike appearance with the central part of the affected area being clear.

The journal *Dermatology in Practice* has recently reported on the much higher incidence of ringworm to be found in the owners of cats rather than of dogs, although apparently experience shows that the family doctor nearly always blames the dog.

A minor attack of ringworm can be controlled by applying such creams as Dakatarin or Imidazole, but if it becomes at all widespread an oral preparation such as griseofulvin will be needed.

A common fungus often affecting travellers to exotic holiday spots is *Tinea versicolor*, which can ruin an expensive tan by causing multiple white speckles to spread over what had previously been perfectly browned flesh.

A bath using a fungicidal hair shampoo such as Nizoral may be enough to kill the fungus, but if not a five-day course of Sporanox capsules will eradicate it. Unfortunately the white patches will take months to regain normal skin colour.

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صكزا من الاجل

# King of trash stops playing the clown

Antoine de Caunes describes his new and very serious film as "a lecture fabler", but that scarcely does it justice. Imagine instead a cross between *The Sound of Music* and a feature-length version of *Della Smith*.

Television host Antoine de Caunes is leaving his wild years behind to cater for more sophisticated tastes, he tells Mary Riddell

We are in a small kitchen looking out on a sweep of French Alps, and the hills are alive with the smell of onions. Evening is approaching, and the star, cast in the oxymoronic role of French New Man, is preparing supper. "Cut," says the director for the hundredth time, and Antoine, who has now dissected the greater part of the Spanish onion crop, pauses at his chopping board while an assistant sweeps the discarded chunks into a rubbish bag. De Caunes is normally responsible for a different — and, his critics might think, equally disposable — form of Eurotrash. The TV series which made him a star in Britain is not big on haute cuisine, although it did redefine Belgium as the place whose inhabitants eat rat stroganoff. It also labelled Italy the host country of the Miss Transsexual Beauty Contest. Germany the home of the Tantric sex school and pigeon-holed de Caunes's co-host, Jean Paul Gaultier, as Europe's top purveyor of sex and vulgarity.

**'I couldn't draw a frontier between work and outside'**

Or, as de Caunes puts it: "It is just fun — like kids playing together." Nursery school resumes in the autumn. Mean-time devotees can catch him on Channel 4, where he is presenting a language programme called *Channel Hopping*, in which he explores the culture — or lack of it — of French broadcasting. Predictable enough, but an odd thing has happened to de Caunes. A few months ago, at the height of his success, he walked away from the French TV show he had presented daily for the last seven years. He had scandalised and amused a country enthralled by exploits such as interviewing Jack Lang, the former French cultural minister, in the nude. ("Actually, I was wearing a leetle placard to cover the vital parts, but I felt a bit vulnerable, and he was very furious.") By then de Caunes was growing bored with redefining the boundaries of good taste. "It's finished. It's over, and it was such a big relief. I wanted to be an actor. I wanted to write. I didn't want to become an old and pathetic clown." He says he is 42. I make him 43, but what is a missing year

for one so charmingly youthful? "I must add five years to his face to make him look his real age," says the make-up girl. Even allowing for two-day stubble and painted-on wrinkles, he is an attractive man. His appearance, coupled with his Clouseau-esque accent, are the qualities which have enraptured his fans. "A stereotype, of course. But if the Brits think of Frenchmen as self-conscious, arrogant, believing they are the best lovers in the world, then there is also some truth in that." Really. Are they?

"I can't tell," he says coyly. "I don't know what the others are like." History suggests that closer acquaintance actually renders Antoine far from irresistible. His marriage and a subsequent long-term relationship both collapsed, and although he remains on good terms with both women — the mothers of his daughter, Emma, 20, and son Louis, nine — he admits that he was impossible to live with.

"I never was able to draw a frontier between my work and what's outside. I tried to understand why, but that was the only reason I could find. When I work on something, I need to be involved in it

totally, and for someone who lives with you, that looks like hell. "They both left me, but it was not a case of war or betrayal. I have been alone for nine months, and I have no interest in looking for women. I do not behave like a peeg, but it is just too difficult for a girl to live with me."

Piggish or not, it is hard to imagine anyone seriously considering this invitation. Antoine, the matinee idol (although clearly an improvement on the Eurotrash version) is a weary-looking workaholic who has been filming through the night and must soon disappear to rehearse how to chop an onion. Alain Delon does not instantly spring to mind. Nor does any instant clue to his cult status.

The truth, normally heavily-disguised, is that he is a more engaging and thoughtful man than his material suggests. The son of two successful French television journalists, he was brought up in the Paris suburbs and dispatched to a Jesuit boarding school, partly to curb his rebelliousness and

mainly, and unsuccessfully, to wear him away from his parents' world. "They were so afraid I would be influenced by their artificial society. They had this strange life. I used to see them as much on TV as in real life. Weird people. Actually, I love them, but it was not a regular family."

He grew up to loathe television and the Jesuits in almost equal measure. It was not until his late twenties that he succumbed to the lesser of the two evils. By the time Janet Street-Porter discovered him (an item in his CV to which he does not allude) and brought his music show, *Rapido*, to British TV, the combined fame of Charles de Gaulle, Napoleon and Tintin looked puny in comparison with that of Antoine de Caunes. *Eurotrash* followed and, with it, his relentless assault on good taste.

**'When I left TV, I felt as if I had abandoned my family'**

The Talk Dirty Machine which could swear in eight different languages. The Spanish restaurant complete with phallic accoutrements. Mild stuff, he says, compared with what he was doing in France. And, at the end of each TV series, he would retreat to his house in the Normandy town of Trouville, unplug the telephone and read, Voltaire, de Maupassant, Robert Louis Stevenson, Wilkie Collins. "Ah, do you like Wheelkey? I have just re-read all his novels."

"But I hated those times — that feeling that something was over. When my relationships broke up it was the same kind of mourning — that miserable feeling that you will never do anything like that again." It took until this year for him to realise that, with the exception of *Eurotrash*, he did not wish to carry on with a career which had made him both rich and despised. "I wanted a feeling of danger. I was just drifting along, and if you do that you're dead. I was very scared when I gave up, but I knew that I wanted to write movies and act in them. Still, when I left TV, I felt as if I had abandoned my family. It was very depressing."

By then he had already completed two film parts. The current one, in Jacques Fansten's *C'est pour la Bonne Cause*, explores the integration of Rwandan refugees sent on holiday to France. A responsible social drama in which all the participants remain fully-clad, it will keep de Caunes in the Alpine town of Annecy for the next month.

After that he will finish a screenplay for French TV before, he hopes, making a British film with Steve Coogan and Jennifer Saunders. His pace, as always, will be a round of 20-hour days with little spare time. His daughter is just starting out as an actress — a spur, you would think, for him to abandon the Boy Scout uniforms and the Prince Charles ears so indispensable to his Eurotrash routines, but they will not be disposed of quite yet.

"I do not think those were my wild years, and they're over. I will not necessarily say No if I get into another project which is crazy and nerz." But nuts, for the moment, play no part in a career now dedicated to far more sophisticated tastes. Such as onions.



Cult figure: Antoine the matinee idol is a weary-looking workaholic who has been filming through the night

Giles Coren looks at nepotism and the media

## Keeping it in the family

The first article I wrote in a national newspaper generated a letter from a reader. I had arrived. I had joined the arena of public debate. I sat back from my screen to read it. "Your piece on Dudley Moore was rubbish," it read. "You are not funny and nor is your father. Neither of you can write, and you are both bastards. You resent Dudley Moore because your father is a failure, and you only got your job because of him."

This was a poor start. When I wrote stories at school as a small child, the other children would insist that my father had written them. When I was older, one of my English teachers would tell people I had only got into university because of my father. Who knows? He may have been right.

But faced with the prospect of a life of self-justification, I have occasionally gone so far as to deny my family. With a father and sister already successfully entrenched in journalism, the idea that the profession would be able to stand another Coren seemed unlikely. Nepotism in the media is the subject of dozens of newspaper articles every year, the latest crop fuelled by a tirade from Channel 4 director of programmes John Willis (son of scriptwriter Lord Ted, I think, rather than fast bowler Bob) and a factually miserable rant from Ros Coward in *The Guardian* (she could be related to Noel but shows no signs of an inherited sense of humour). Also infiltrating a couple of Radio 4 programmes at the weekend, the integrity police have been trotting out the familiar list of names: The Dimplebys (David and Jonathan, sons of Richard); The Magnussons (Magnus and daughters Sally and Margaret); Gloria Hunniford and her daughter Caron Keating; Barry, Samantha and Emma Norman; Zoe Ball, daughter of Johnny; Max Hastings, son of Macdonald; The Friends, The Wyatts... the list has the whiff of witch-hunt about it, like a wall-

poster in a totalitarian state, inviting quislings to denounce others they might have come across. You might wonder, if you care (for it is a truism that only journalists notice bylines) whether the implicated scions lose any sleep over it. Few of them, in fact, were prepared to talk about it. Some cited a reluctance to enrage their parents, others the faint hope that no one had noticed and they didn't want to draw attention to it, thank you. Others admitted they were so embarrassed, they blushed just thinking about it.



Dimpleby brothers David (left) and Jonathan

Anna Blundy, 25, a feature writer for *Elle* and *Cosmopolitan* and a columnist in *The Times* magazine, is the daughter of David Blundy, a legendary foreign correspondent who was killed while reporting in El Salvador in 1989. She always saw a career in journalism as inevitable. "My friends all think I get my jobs because people knew my dad," she says. "But they are all lawyers — and so are their fathers. The problem with the media is that you do your work in public, so any apparent nepotism is more obvious." "When I was little the only people I knew were journalists, everyone thought my dad was wonderful and it seemed the cool thing to be. The problem now is that I can't live up to my

dad's memory. Because he was such a good foreign correspondent, my own witterings look all the more frivolous by comparison." In this she is not alone. None of us is as good as our parent, and to be a pale imitation is rather boring. It is like being a cutting, nicked off the main plant and stuck in a pot with some hormone powder to see how it gets on. Every now and then, some media friend of your parents will notice you and indulgently say "aren't you doing well?" And, like talking to plants, it doesn't really help.

Albert Read, 26, son of Piers Paul and grandson of Herbert, is the *Daily Express* opinion editor. "I am happy to admit that it has been a bit of a leg-up," he says, "but there are lots of reasons why people are given jobs because they are good-looking, or nice, or funny. Ability to do the job is only a part of it." In the office, as much as in our social lives, we are inclined to surround ourselves with people we like. It may be unfair, but it is inevitable. I have so far avoided commissioning my father — which would raise a few eyebrows — but only because he is too expensive.

This is crucial. We are cheap. If you want a Coren, a Read or a Wyatt, you can have the offspring for a fraction of what the patriarch would charge. But the media is obsessed with its own chastity, and the impulse to spout venom at fellow professionals who are perceived as less than worthy is so irresistible that truth can fall by the wayside. Ros Coward ranted that Victoria Coren had inherited her father's column in *The Times*. But he is still there, and she appears with horrid regularity in every daily paper apart from *The Times*. Mud sticks better when slung in the right direction. You can't help wondering how Ms Coward got her job. And if it was by the long and arduous paying of dues, did she miss the lessons on fact-checking, as well as the ones on charm?

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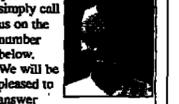
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# Why we must stop EMU now

Europe is not ready for a single currency, says Wilhelm Nölling

The people of Europe are uninformed and ill-at-ease about the prospect of giving up currencies in which they place considerable trust. Economic and monetary union is a goal that I support in general, but which I believe will come about naturally one day as a concomitant of greater European integration. It would be the utmost folly to bring it about too soon, when political and economic conditions are not right. Monetary union not only distracts attention from Europe's biggest problem, unemployment, but makes it worse. Its probable positive effects are modest, and they have to be weighed against the disruption caused by a premature and radical transformation of Europe's monetary order.

The EMU plan faces difficult technical, legal and conceptual obstacles. One of the greatest, to which little attention has been paid so far, is the immense cost of converting EU economies to a euro-based system. Projected costs of replacing the various currencies are very high. Europe needs more investment, but this is not the right use of the continent's resources. One of the principal claims made for the single currency is that it would be as stable as the mark. This is possible, but not at all certain. There is a risk that politicians will try to soften the convergence criteria if Europe's economy is not to suffer from an inappropriate fiscal and monetary policy mix. Secondly, Europe needs to establish a fiscal transfer mechanism that will iron out economic differences among states that fix their exchange rates. Because of these arguments, Chancellor Kohl saw the need to establish political union before the Maastricht treaty was agreed. However, there is no majority in European governments for a "federal" Europe with a state-like character. The present inter-governmental conference is unlikely to lead to political union either. One of Germany's prime EMU conditions will thus not be fulfilled.

Monetary union has been put forward as a miracle cure for Europe's ills. It is supposed to bind Germany firmly into Europe, to end the possibility of European war, to eliminate the dominance of the Bundesbank and much more. This proliferation of expectations can lead only to disillusionment when the project fails to deliver the wonders that its supporters claim. Likewise, absurdly exaggerated suggestions have been put forward of the cost if EMU does not go ahead. It is alleged that the single market would be impaired or even fall apart. This is nonsense. The EU will continue to develop even if we do not have monetary union for several years. Grotesque overstatements of the alleged harm caused by postponing EMU do an immense disservice to European unity. The sooner governments take a decision to delay EMU, perhaps for five to ten years, the better off we shall all be.

Professor Nölling was a member of the Bundesbank council, 1982-92. On Thursday at 5.30pm he will take part in a public debate at the LSE.

and adding to the pressure for people to migrate across Europe in search of work. Efforts by EU members to fulfil the fiscal criteria by reducing public spending at a time of reduced growth are likely to be counter-productive.

Even if European governments decide to soften their interpretation of the "convergence criteria" to allow EMU to take place, far fewer than the EU's 15 members will be able to join. Those that do not participate will be asked to join a reformed version of the exchange-rate mechanism. This new ERM, however, will be very difficult to operate, not least because the European central bank will not be obliged to intervene to defend the non-EMU currencies at the floor of their fluctuation bands. There will be an extreme contrast between the central bank's immense power to fix interest rates throughout the euro-zone and the powerlessness of non-EMU members to defend their exchange rates. This will lead to a dramatic monetary policy split in Europe, which could prove divisive in political as well as economic terms.

Monetary union needs to be established as a gradual process that incorporates a form of political union. There are two strong arguments for this. First, political co-ordination of budgetary policies is essential if Europe's economy is not to suffer from an inappropriate fiscal and monetary policy mix. Secondly, Europe needs to establish a fiscal transfer mechanism that will iron out economic differences among states that fix their exchange rates. Because of these arguments, Chancellor Kohl saw the need to establish political union before the Maastricht treaty was agreed. However, there is no majority in European governments for a "federal" Europe with a state-like character. The present inter-governmental conference is unlikely to lead to political union either. One of Germany's prime EMU conditions will thus not be fulfilled.

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Europe's most pressing challenge is how to combat mass unemployment. Yet EMU would impose a strait-jacket and make a bad situation worse. Instead of the flexibility conferred by the capacity to vary exchange rates, the Maastricht rigidities will lead to more unemployment, starting in a spiral of wage reductions



THE TEN TORIES EXPEDITION, DARTMOOR

# Afraid of adventure

Are we raising our children to be a generation of outdoor illiterates?

We live on a challenging island. The Army had to airlift hundreds of teenagers off Dartmoor at the weekend, when the Ten Tories expedition was hit by blizzards; yet the last time a large number were rescued (in May 1988) it was from heat exhaustion. With such a climate, who could ever be bored? Bad-tempered, certainly, but not bored. Two hundred years ago, William Cobbett observed hailstones in the hayfields and observed that "June in England is a compound of hay and ice". Dwellers on this treacherous rock need to be ready for anything, and a deep instinct tells me that the day we cannot cope with that is the day of our final decadence.

So my heart rejoiced to see the pictures of weary children in sodden anoraks being ushered out of Sea King helicopters after their Dartmoor adventure. Not only was the rescue a sensible decision and a copybook operation; it was also heartening to be reminded that 2,400 schoolchildren between 14 and 19 were out there in the first place. They were attempting a bleak moorland and hill walk of up to 55 miles, in self-sufficient groups of six. Some did finish despite the weather, and others reached safety on foot. The Army had decided that they all deserve medals just for being out there in the first place, and quite rightly too.

There should be medals also for the schools, parents, associations and organisers who put them there. This is no longer an easy thing to do. Despite a general murmur of lip-service to the benefits of fresh air and exercise, the practice of "outdoor education" is under grave threat, with many schools quietly replacing it with tamer pursuits. This is bad news, because there are already enough signs that we are turning into a nation of outdoor illiterates. Every winter, flimsily dressed people are rescued from snowdrifts; I once helped to pull three cars out of a lane with a Land Rover and noticed that everyone wore thin shoes and summer clothes, because they simply could not believe in a world outside their heated cars. Every summer, innocents stroll off up Welsh mountains mapless and hatless without a glance at the weather forecast; countless members of this island race are rescued by the RNLI after drifting out to sea on Lidos, the climbing down cliffs to take pictures

of waves, or setting out sea-fishing with no cars, spare engine, life-jackets or flares. In the Land's End school disaster — and certain ski-trip incidents since — the most frightening thing was the apparent ignorance of the teachers themselves about the risks that nature, however pretty, presents to the unwary. Outdoor illiteracy is a dangerous thing; who can doubt that we need outdoor education?

Of course, it must be done properly. Ironically, it has been the slovenly cosmetic approach — all PR and no substance — which has helped to frighten off parents and schools. The principle is that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing was illustrated horribly by the Lyme Bay disaster, when an apparently smart centre (I feel strongly about this, because my son was there the summer before) turned out to be so illiterate about basic safety that a pack of novice canoeists were sent out in an offshore wind without escort boat, flares or emergency radio-beacons (an emergency position indicating radio beacon, incidentally, now costs less than £200). Yes, these things should be done properly, but that is no excuse for not doing them at all.

Do not confuse outdoor education with sport. Sport may keep you fit, but it generally happens within easy reach of warm showers, hot food and medical services. Outdoor education, on the other hand, may demand less skill but does insist that you confront real uncertainties in mountain, moorland, sea or forest. It demands not showy physical excellence, but doggedness and horse-sense. In a sport, if you get tired you can stop. Out in the wild, you can't. Sport has rules governing the angle of the hockeystick, hardness of the ball, and so on; the real world, as the Dartmoor walkers could tell you, does not care whether you live or die. Some activities straddle sport and true outdoor education: if you go up the climbing-wall at the leisure centre or sail round the buoys on the reservoir, that is sport; going up

in the secure gardens of troop leaders, with water from the kitchen tap rather than boiled up from some brackish stream. More and more adventure centre prospectuses place stress on their carefully designed assault courses and canoe training in swimming pools, rather than on confronting the works of nature. All this may be fun, but it is not adventure, and its educational value is limited. Ironically, proper adventures are becoming the preserve of affluent middle-class youth; independent schools such as Gordonstoun can afford to lure their clientele by making their adventurousness a selling point (and can afford full insurance for teachers who lead it). Their colleagues in the state sector, overworked and over-regulated, have a harder time of it. It takes real strength of character in a head to encourage the potentially troublesome option of real outdoor education rather than accept some smooth, safe substitute.

Few state schools, for example, would happily increase their burdens by following the admirably eccentric example of Mrs Campion, head of St Felix independent girls' school in Suffolk, who three years ago instituted the Upper Fourth survival challenge. She sent a whole year of 12-year-olds into the woods for two nights with nothing but the SAS-type equipment of bin-bag, candle-stub, razorblade and so forth they left out the condom, prescribed by the SAS as a water-carrier, out of prudent delicacy for parents' feelings). The little girls were trained and led by a survival expert, and otherwise the only concession to their tender years was that they were issued with already dead rabbits to skin for their supper (vegetarians had to eat nettle soup and learn that Linda McCartney ready-meals do not hop around in forests).

It rained incessantly; some girls were rescued, having proved incapable of building waterproof shelters — a failure which in itself was highly educational and will give them a whole new respect for Bushmen. Other groups lasted the course, thanks to their native wit and doggedness. In the midst of it, I asked one elegant creature, her unprotected hair streaming wetly like a dog's ears, what she had learnt from the experience. "Er... not to go out when it's raining," she said. Well, it's a start. She'd never heard that out in the short gap between the minibus and the heated leisure-dome.

## Libby Purves

# Privatised shares are private

Labour hankers after control, says Woodrow Wyatt

Once the dictatorship of the proletariat had been established, government was supposed to wither on the vine. But it never did; Lenin and Stalin liked power too much and became the dictators of the proletariat. Once competition was established, the regulators of the newly privatised utilities and industries, from whom there is no appeal, were supposed to vanish. But they haven't. Whatever their politics, regulators love regulating. New Labour never ceases to assure business and industry that old Labour's belief in nationalisation is dead; a Labour government would be friendly to private enterprise.

Clare Short, however, has worked out an elaborate scheme for returning Railtrack to public ownership without, she claims, injuring the 650,000 shareholders. They will be able to buy a new kind of debt-equity share — but their original investment will lapse whether they like it or not. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, last week confirmed that the windfall tax on privatised utilities, expected by his advisers to raise £2.3 billion, would be spread over three years. The tax is to fund training schemes for the young unemployed and unskilled — which already exist and to which Labour's schemes are unlikely to add anything useful. Mainly, this is an expression of Labour's unrequited longing for nationalisation. The excuse for the windfall tax is the offensive and sudden riches of top executives created by options and bonuses of which the ordinary shareholder was unaware when he bought the shares. About ten million private shareholders, including me, own at least 10 per cent of the privatised utilities.

Gordon Brown's huge fine is confiscation — and partial nationalisation, as it involves a savage drop in the value of shareholdings, setting a precedent for further windfall taxes whenever a government is short of cash. The effect on overseas investors would be calamitous.

Regulation is needed so long as a newly privatised utility is a monopoly. There will always have to be regulators for water, to ensure that the water companies comply with standards of purity and do not over-charge consumers. Even so, the aim of the regulator should include pressure for greater efficiency and a decent return for the shareholders. A superb example of this has been Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator for electricity. He has forced electricity companies to bring down prices with a discipline which enables them to make higher profits for the shareholders. When there is sufficient competition in the industry, the only regulation required will be on the national grid monopoly (because to duplicate the service it provides would be a waste of resources).

Regulation is needed so long as a newly privatised utility is a monopoly. There will always have to be regulators for water, to ensure that the water companies comply with standards of purity and do not over-charge consumers. Even so, the aim of the regulator should include pressure for greater efficiency and a decent return for the shareholders. A superb example of this has been Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator for electricity. He has forced electricity companies to bring down prices with a discipline which enables them to make higher profits for the shareholders. When there is sufficient competition in the industry, the only regulation required will be on the national grid monopoly (because to duplicate the service it provides would be a waste of resources).

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, is right to ensure that TransCo, owner of the national gas pipelines, does not abuse its monopoly. She is awry in penalising its parent, British Gas, by wayward accounting. She has departed from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's ruling on how depreciation and the value of assets should be calculated. Arbitrarily, she has slashed the asset value and the share price of British Gas, to the severe detriment of trusting Sid, who will hardly feel compensated by a reduction in gas bills for shareholders and non-shareholders alike.

Unsurprisingly, Margaret Beckett, Labour's Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, fully supports Clare Spottiswoode. Undoubtedly, British Gas will refer the case to the monopolies commission, asking it to uphold its 1993 rulings. The only change since has been to the good, except for Clare Spottiswoode's destructive accounting.

British Telecom was a monopoly when first privatised, so a regulator was obviously necessary. BT, as everyone with a telephone knows, has steadily reduced its prices and improved its services, as well as making large profits for its shareholders. It is no longer a monopoly. I am a BT shareholder. My phone is now ingeniously equipped with a system which automatically decides whether my call is cheaper through BT or Mercury. It is patently absurd for the Department of Trade and Industry and the director-general of OfTel to police BT, other than to ensure that it does not charge excessively for the lines its competitors use. Even this dwindles to insignificance as firms like Paknet increasingly transmit telephone services through the ether. As a result of the unreasonable interference by the Government and the director-general of OfTel, BT shares have consistently underperformed on the FTSE index, though shareholders have provided the means for the investment which has made BT a world leader.

When a deregulating Conservative Government persists in squashing BT and refusing to deregulate the outdated regulation of other privatised concerns, Heaven knows what would be in store from Labour.

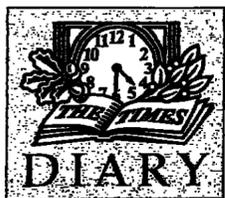
# Hurd not seen?

THE MURKY, secret life of Douglas Hurd can be revealed at last. As a Cambridge undergraduate he was approached to be a spy. Hurd was courted by MI6 and turned down life in the James Bond mould only because ambition got the better of him. He quickly realised that he would receive no public recognition for his work as a spy, and instead joined the Foreign Office before pursuing a political career.

a five-part series presented by the former Foreign Secretary and tracing his career. Those hoping to hear his views on the present Government may be less excited. He has even put on hold plans to write his memoirs. "More time is needed in order to give events their right proportion and perspective," he says cautiously.



The delay is due to money on the line



● Fed up with losing strawberries to hungry Chelsea Flower Show visitors — the Queen has been known to help herself from the odd stand — one grower was yesterday planning revenge. "Next year I am going to cover my strawberries in Epsom salts. They won't come back for more then."

## Taking sides

THE BIZARRE debate about the Messiah's political views rumbles on. After Tony Blair suggested that Conservatism was incompatible with Christianity, Harry Greenwood, the MP for Ealing North, has climbed into the pulpit to deliver a more forthright sermon: Jesus was a Tory. "Jesus was certainly a Conservative, teaching that every individual

is made in the image of God and therefore sacred and not to be treated as part of 'the masses' in the way that socialism dictates," he writes in his local paper, the *Greenford and Northolt Gazette*.

In response he has been given a blast by his bishop. "He has missed the point of so much that Jesus did and taught," says the Rt Rev Graham Dow, Bishop of Willesden. "Britain needs Christianity a hundred times more than it needs Conservatism."

## Crimebusters

TONY BLAIR should be wary of trotting out his familiar boast that he is "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" when out on the stump in his Sedgfield constituency. Lizzie Noel, his feisty Tory opponent, has her own hands-on approach to catching criminals.

Travelling through Notting Hill in a mini-cab the other day, she spotted a poor fellow being relieved of his wallet by a mugger. Leaping from the car she tended to the victim and instructed her fiancé, Henry Pitman, a former military man and stepson to Andrew Parker Bowles, to chase the villain. After some derring-do and hot pursuit over walls and fences, the quarry was cornered by Pitman



Arresting performance: Noel

and the taxi-driver, and a citizen's arrest was made. Should he be incarcerated for his crime, he could have no more useful visitor than Lizzie herself, a former prison psychologist at Wormwood Scrubs who is now writing a book on prison reform.

● Norma Major has been busy in her kitchen. For the first Lady Taverers race evening at Windsor last night, she had baked a whopper of a passion cake and also of-

fered a jar of Chequers Chutney. Word of this latest contribution to our culinary heritage already has the blue-ribose organisers of Tory fetes in a right pickle.

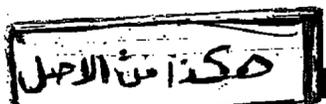
## Chelsea tea

GALES on Sunday nearly brought down the main marquee at the Chelsea Flower Show, but at least the tea ladies of Ealing, west London, benefited from the chill. They received a desperate call from exhibitors of the giant Amazonian water-lily. The lilies were collapsing because their water was too cold, so the tea ladies agreed to leave out their urns to provide hot water for the freezing ponds.

"It was an emergency. We put water-heaters in the pond, and we used bubble-wrap to ensure that the lilies were warm enough," says Barbara Davies of Stapley Water Gardens. "But it was still too cold, so we needed some hot water."

"We ordered taxis to get the tea urns, and we just hope that the water will be warm enough, but things could be as bad as we expect. None of the buds are flowering, and you can understand in this cold weather why they won't."

P-H-S





# DEFAMATION DAY

### The Bill of Rights is bigger than any Member's interest

In an important judgment last year, the European Court of Human Rights criticised the record award of £1.5 million in the Lord Aldington v Count Tolstoy libel case. While Count Tolstoy's allegations were untrue, the British system of letting juries pluck figures out of the air, without any sensible guidance from a judge, was found to run counter to the free speech provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Since then the Court of Appeal has wisely overturned the rule that judges could not give juries guidance on the level of awards in libel actions. Coupled with Section 3 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, which gives the Court of Appeal the power to reduce or increase a jury award in a libel action, a sensible set of guidelines should now emerge, allowing juries to know roughly what to award if a defendant wrongly accuses someone of being a liar, a thief or a blackmailer.

Today the House of Commons will begin to consider the Lord Chancellor's Defamation Bill. This is aimed at persuading newspapers and television companies to come forward with rapid apologies by offering a defence of "offer of amends". Under its proposals the media company would admit that it made a mistake, apologise and then leave it up to a judge to award a sensible sum in damages.

The Bill has already been much improved during its passage through the Lords. The Lord Chancellor has heard the serious worries of the media over the "offer of amends" procedure if it was going to be left to a judge to dictate where and in what terms a correction and apology should appear. Under new proposals, the judge will instead be able to increase the damages if he is not satisfied that the apology was sufficient and reasonable.

But the Bill still has some defects, most notably the power left with judges to order apologies where an aggrieved party is able to convince a court that the media company has no defence to a claim. This will put the

courts and the media on a collision course. Moreover, if judges are given a new power to order apologies, what is to stop them ordering Count Tolstoy, after a hard fought libel action, to apologise to Lord Aldington, something which he would almost certainly refuse to do? In those circumstances the law would risk ridicule.

But the real defect in the Bill is a late amendment which would allow MPs to waive parliamentary privilege in order to pursue personal libel actions against newspapers or even other MPs who make allegations about their behaviour within the precincts of the House. This amendment, put forward by Lord Hoffman, has an outward attractiveness in that it would appear to allow MPs, such as Neil Hamilton, to clear their names when attacked over issues like "questions for cash". At present they cannot pursue libel actions involving matters within the aegis of the House of Commons because Article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 states that "freedom of speech and debate in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament".

Parliamentary privilege, however, is a collective right of the whole House. An individual MP should not be able to waive it simply in order to deal with trips to Paris, questions in the House or the registration of Members' interests. Even more fundamentally, one MP or a group of MPs should not be able to waive privilege to try to stifle opposition criticism.

As is admitted by Lord Hoffman himself, the amendment will lead to embarrassing situations when one MP decides to waive privilege and sue while another in a similar situation decides not to. On this amendment the Lord Chancellor must listen to the wise advice of Lord Simon of Glaisdale that an amendment such as this, which goes to the heart of our constitution and the Bill of Rights of 1689, should be referred to a committee of both Houses before any further move is made.

# KEEP IT CLEAN

### The Tories need to be more discerning with donors

There is a nasty smell again in Smith Square. The Conservative Party, whose last four years in government have been marred by accusations of sleaze, is back in the dock, accused of having accepted money from curious Balkan sources and failing to return £365,000, given to the party by Asil Nadir, which accountants contend was stolen.

The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has promised to investigate and return the cash if he is satisfied that the money is tainted. That is all very well as far as it goes. Unless the Tories show a greater degree of discretion in dealing with donors they risk damaging not only their own cause but the health of our political system.

At the next general election money will matter more to the Conservatives than at any time in recent memory. The days when large companies dispatched a donation to the Conservative Party as regularly as they filed their VAT returns have gone. The threat of nationalisation and punitive taxation from Labour has receded and shareholders are increasingly dubious about the wisdom of seeing their profits handed to politicians on their behalf.

With tired and discredited ministers, shrinking party membership and previously loyal newspapers no longer reliable, the Tories have to rely on expensive advertising and campaigning techniques to get their message across. Worse still, Labour is in a strong position, partly as a result of the growth in membership since Tony Blair's election as leader.

Despite these constraints, the Tories claim to have put their finances on a sufficiently sure footing to fight the next election in the way they wish. Many businessmen who

started companies in the Eighties and benefited from supply side reforms have given generously, prompted by fear of a Labour Government committed to introducing the social chapter. The Tories cannot ensure that every entrepreneur who wishes to give has completely clean hands. Every political party has been embarrassed by the activities of some of its backers. But the Conservatives should be more careful from whom they accept cash, and be readier to return any discredited donation.

When Conservative ministers argue that our political system is freer of graft than most others, they usually provoke a cynical shrug. But they are correct. The United Kingdom has been spared corruption scandals on the scale of those which have undermined democracies as sophisticated as Germany, Spain, France and Belgium. For that reason the Tories should be particularly reluctant to take money from foreign donors. Accepting cash from countries where political influence is a commodity can all too easily compromise a party. Government policy may not have been influenced by donations. But the Tory Party does itself few favours by fishing in murky pools.

Most dangerously of all, it fuels demand for reforms, such as the publication of all donations and the State funding of parties. A law requiring publication of gifts would be a regrettable infringement of the right of the individual. State funding would mean, in effect, nationalising the parties. Political parties should raise their own revenue, not act as yet another drain on the Inland Revenue. For the sake of the State, and its own reputation, the Tory party must work harder to put itself above suspicion.

# VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

### Marble Arch never sleeps but who could sleep in Marble Arch?

After 170 years of uselessness and £100,000 of refurbishment, the Government is at last proposing to do something with Marble Arch. According to Virginia Bottomley's announcement in the Commons yesterday, the forgotten gatekeepers' rooms at the top of this forgotten treasure of national heritage may in future be let as apartments.

Britain has never been as comfortable with arches as more triumphalist nations. Not only do we keep our streets unusually empty of them. But our great historian, Gibbon, derided the Arch of Constantine in Rome, the prototype from which Nash copied his Britannic version, seeing decadence in the way that older monuments were cannibalised for its creation.

Gibbon would have found much decadence and infirmity of purpose in the history of London's Marble Arch. It was first erected as the grand entrance to Buckingham Palace. But, being too narrow for ceremonial uses, it was removed to its present site which until then had been famous only as Tyburn gallows. An equestrian statue of George IV (managing to ride bareback without boots or stirrups) had intended to be set on top of it. This was relocated to its pedestal in Trafalgar Square.

Hence Marble Arch has given its name to the busiest traffic roundabout in London and the station on the Central Line where the line is usually being repaired on

Sundays. Because of the Arch's original function as royal gateway, only senior members of the Royal Family and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery are allowed to pass through its central arch. But they risk their lives to try. Marble Arch stands in howling isolation as a traffic island for 5,800 vehicles an hour at peak periods. So the tourists who take this heritage trail have to survive the road rage of the traffic before exposing themselves to the fundamentalist rage of Speakers' Corner. The maze of subways beneath the Marble Arch is the most malodorous and misleadingly signposted in London.

Two years ago the then National Heritage Secretary, Peter Brooke, held a competition to liberate Marble Arch from traffic chaos and neglect. The winning scheme proposed to turn the triangle between the Arch and Speakers' Corner into a pedestrian way so that people could visit the London landmark and see Nash's sculpture. Traffic was to be diverted down an underpass. The scheme was shelved when it was costed at £21 million, and Westminster City Council decided it would generate more congestion. No arch ever sleeps. But no one in Marble Arch could ever sleep. To turn the hub of a "gyratory system" into a Mayfair apartment is to find a living use for Marble Arch. But who will be able to live there? Only hermits who have lost their marbles already.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Radical reform for forensic testing

*From the Director, National Council for Civil Liberties*

Sir, The fact that a government science laboratory's equipment responsible for evaluating forensic evidence has been found to be contaminated with traces of explosives (reports May 15, 16; article May 16) is of serious concern. Anxiety, however, is not limited to those convicted post-1989, as has been accepted by the Home Secretary; the whole system for the evaluation of forensic evidence gives concern.

That system is in crisis and has been for decades. This has been proved by the litany of miscarriages of justice which have stemmed from prosecutions based upon suspect forensic evidence.

This recent revelation is merely confirmation of the fact that the methods used to accumulate forensic evidence need to be seen to be radically overhauled. More procedural safeguards must be built into the process to protect individuals against the risk of false positive results.

The Home Secretary should therefore not limit the proposed inquiry to those known individuals who may have been convicted on the basis of flawed forensic evidence gathered from the contaminated equipment. Rather, he should take the opportunity to conduct an investigation into the entire forensic examination procedure.

Whilst it is hoped that the proposed inquiry should go some way to addressing the problems arising out of this particular crisis, without a root and branch examination of the entire system with the aim of establishing a high level of quality control, these potential miscarriages of justice arising from dubious forensic evidence are unlikely to be the last.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WADHAM,  
Director,  
National Council for Civil Liberties,  
21 Tabard Street, SE1,  
May 16.

## Fulham's new bishop

*From the Reverend David H. Hubbard*

Sir, Your assumption that the appointment of John Broadhurst as Bishop of Fulham "will enrage the centre and liberal wings of the Church" (report, May 14) is not helpful; and those supporters of the ordination of women who have worked with John Broadhurst will surely recognise his undoubted leadership ability, and will want to congratulate him and pray for his future episcopal ministry in this diocese.

It is true that we may not be able to work and worship in unison in London, but at least we can aim at harmony, a goal that will be the more easily reached if the London diocesan ark of salvation is not rocked by forces without.

I write as one who has been described in this area as a "notorious" supporter of the ordination of women.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID H. HUBBARD,  
All Saints Vicarage,  
Church Road, Highgate, N6,  
May 14.

## Chinese tribes

*From Mr Alastair D. Harper*

Sir, There is nothing surprising in remains of a Caucasian type of people coming to light in the Tarim Basin, in the Xinjiang autonomous region of north-west China (report, May 10).

This geographical area, settled exclusively by mongoloid people today, was historically a homeland and a point of diffusion for Caucasian tribes, which the Chinese and the Tartars called Wu Sun or Hs Ung Nu. Chinese analysts describe them as "tall with red hair, grey eyes, and fair skin". Herodotus and Aeschylus report similarly on the tribes which also bear the names of Tokhari, Kushans, Ephthalites and Sakae.

Though nothing remains of these people in the living strains of the Chinese, the vestigial evidence recently discovered is rightly perceived as of great anthropological importance. It is significant that in the still scarcely accessible mountains of east Afghanistan a culturally archaic people, formerly known as Kafiri and now as Nuristani, persist. Until the 1890s they practised an ancient Indo-European religion, from which they were forcibly converted to Islam. In their foggy hinterland many of them remain blond.

In this region of early racial maelstrom it is interesting to remember that the Tocharian language, which persisted for a considerable time north of the Himalayas and eastward, was a purely Caucasian tongue more closely related to the western Indo-European speech than to Indonesian.

It will not be a surprise if many of the presumptions in the field of ethnography are soon to be shaken by the discovery of those skeletons in this ancient cupboard of history.

Yours etc,  
ALASTAIR D. HARPER,  
House of Gask,  
Lathalmond, by Dunfermline, Fife,  
May 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## Future of science at British Library

*From Mr Richard Gallafent*

Sir, Your report concerning the National Audit Office report on the British Library ("Whitehall let costs 'run out of control at British Library'", May 15) made depressing reading, particularly for those not previously aware of the likely excess of demand over capacity on the science reading room as soon as the building is finally opened.

The building will no doubt be regarded in good time as a great national asset, but it can now be seen to be too small. The science section of the library is a vital resource for British industry. If information cannot be found or is more difficult to find in the new building, the loss to British industry will be profound.

One possible way of alleviating the space problem at St Pancras is to re-examine whether it should be the home both for the sciences and the humanities. The origin of the British Library's science holdings is the old Patent Office Library, an unrivalled collection of material built up on the solid foundation laid by a Victorian, Bennett Woodcraft, and carefully improved and developed by the Patent Office and latterly by the British Library itself.

The Science Reference and Information Service of the British Library (under its present organisation) is a hive of industry and activity and, on any objective assessment, a major success. It earns substantial sums of money which assist in defraying the high operating costs inevitably associated with a world-class library and it serves its users well.

naturally welcomed this valuable addition to our resources. At the same time, it was disconcerting to think that many elderly widows, who had probably been excluded from discussion about their financial affairs during their husbands' lifetimes, must of ten have endured unnecessary discomfort, with no one to advise them about better ways of using their capital for their own benefit.

Now, perhaps the question won't arise for different reasons. The insurance corporations and their shareholders will be the winners who take nearly all, as the Government induces us to take out policies to cover nursing home fees for elderly people and we bid a sad farewell to the welfare society (letters, May 14).

Yours etc,  
DAVID HOBMAN  
(Director,  
Age Concern England, 1971-87),  
Robinsonswood, George's Lane,  
Storrington, West Sussex,  
May 14.

## Charitable bequests

*From Mr David Hobman*

Sir, It is not at all surprising that the Charities Aid Foundation's report on charitable giving has recorded a 20 per cent drop in bequests to educational organisations (details, May 13). No doubt the same thing has happened to many other less fashionable causes outside the magic circle.

Many charities prospered in the 1970s and early 1980s from a massive increase in bequests derived from the estates of those who had no idea of their personal assets, enshrined in the inflated value of their home.

As a result charities, which were often the residual beneficiaries, often ended up with a great deal more than named relatives who had been left quite small specific sums, based on assumptions about values made many years before, when the wills were written.

As the then director of a charity devoted to the care of elderly people, I

## Witness support

*From Ms Ruth Pitter*

Sir, Do we really need training courses costing almost £700 for would-be witnesses in forthcoming trials (Law, May 14)? The Crown Court Witness Service, a branch of Victim Support, is now present in every Crown Court, with the sole object of preparing witnesses for their court appearance.

This is a charity with co-ordinators and trained volunteers to guide witnesses on where to wait and what to expect in court, and to speak up if they don't understand questions or remember the facts.

Witnesses are offered a visit to a court before the case so they know what to expect and guidance on court procedure. Child witnesses can have a demonstration of the closed-circuit TV link. Any witness can be accompanied into the courtroom.

Most witness services can provide comfortable rooms in the court buildings, with tea and coffee, where witnesses can wait to be called. We also liaise with criminal justice agencies on their behalf.

This service will not produce a "super-witness" but will encourage a relaxed one with information and support at hand — and it is free.

Yours faithfully,  
RUTH PITTER,  
Co-ordinator,  
Bristol Crown Court Witness Service,  
The Law Courts,  
Small Street, Bristol,  
May 16.

## Ten Tors trek

*From the Headmaster of Clifton College*

Sir, Amid all the reports today of the Ten Tors trek I hope there will be praise and thanks given to the Army for the work they did to ensure that the young people were safe.

Those of my own pupils whose trek was curtailed are disappointed, but they have learnt an enormous amount and they are extremely grateful to all who took part in organising the evacuation.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH MONRO,  
Headmaster,  
Clifton College,  
32 College Road, Bristol,  
May 20.

## Deakin at war

*From Mr Warwick Charlton*

Sir, John Russell Taylor's review of the work of John Deakin (Arts, May 1) omits an important part of his life: his five years as an army photographer during World War Two.

He also asserts, in my view wrongly, that John always considered himself first a painter rather than a photographer.

I first met John in December 1942 when he joined the Eighth Army film and photographic unit where he came under the command of Geoffrey Keating, a legend amongst army photographers, who insisted they should share the dangers of battle with the soldier.

As Field Marshal Montgomery's press officer and editor of *Eighth Army News*, I was determined to get into Tripoli with the advance troops to secure the printing presses from looting and John volunteered to come with me. His response to heavy fire was not to take cover but remain busy with his camera.

He helped me produce the first copy of *Tripoli Times* before returning to Geoffrey Keating for the final battles in North Africa. He then joined the forces in Europe.

John took many distinguished pictures, but they were released, as was the work of all army photographers, without attribution.

On the rare occasions when John reminisced about his time as an army photographer and how much it had taught him, he said: "The Army was the most important learning process of my life. When I joined the Army I was a painter passing myself off as a photographer, when I left I was a photographer who sometimes painted."

Yours faithfully,  
WARWICK CHARLTON,  
Avon Castle,  
Ringwood, Hampshire,  
May 10.

## Liberal Party vote on joining EEC

*From Mr Jeremy Thorpe*

Sir, BBC2 is showing Michael Elliott's four-part series on Britain's relations with the Common Market. Last night's programme dealt with the background to Britain's accession to the Community. It suggested that the second reading of the European Communities Bill in February 1972 was made possible simply and solely on the abstentions of 15 Labour MPs.

No reference was made to the fact that the Liberal Party provided four votes and thus played a major part in obtaining the majority of eight. Had we followed the Labour Party's example and voted against the Government their majority would have disappeared.

At the end of the debate, I and my colleagues were physically attacked by Labour MPs and the disorder which followed formed the headline in almost every national newspaper.

Prior to the debate I spoke with Willie Whitelaw, leader of the House, to make it clear that if the Prime Minister, Mr Heath, made the vote one of confidence in himself and/or the administration, the Liberals would not vote in the Aye lobby, but we would, however, vote for Europe, to which cause we have been uniquely consistent.

I suggested a form of words for the Prime Minister's wind-up speech stating that the House of Commons, having voted overwhelmingly in favour of the principle of entry to the EEC, could not credibly continue without an election if they failed to give legislative effect to the principle already agreed upon.

At the end of the debate Mr Harold Wilson asked the Government to make a statement of their intentions and reminded them that Mr Heath had said he must get legislation through on Tory votes and he had not, since his own majority was given him by the Liberals.

The total omission by this programme of any reference to the part played by the Parliamentary Liberal Party is a grossly selective exercise in writing history.

The programme seeks to establish the time when France withdrew her veto on our renewed application to join the EEC. The first occasion was on November 7, 1969, when Maurice Schumann, the French Foreign Minister, at a meeting at the Quai d'Orsay with Christopher Soames, our Ambassador, and myself stated that France had no further objection to our renewed application.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,  
JEREMY THORPE,  
2 Orme Square, W2,  
May 17.

## Party donations

*From the Chairman of Harrods*

Sir, Your report of May 2 that I offered financial support to the Liberal Democrats but that the party declined it is seriously misleading. I did have discussions with senior members of the party about the most effective way to bring about a thoroughgoing reform of the way in which this country is governed; financial support was one of many ideas that was broached. In the event, I decided that giving money to any of the existing parties was not likely to bring about the sort of change which is sorely needed.

The Liberal Democrats were most willing to receive a donation and made that clear. Had I given money to the party I would have announced it. There could have been nothing wrong with the Liberal Democrats accepting my money as I have earned it and it is mine to dispose of as I see fit.

The Conservative Party is largely funded by companies who do not consult their shareholders, except in the most perfunctory way, before giving away the company's cash and even new Labour still depends upon the contributions of trade unionists who may or may not be happy about their subscriptions going to Walworth Road.

Yours faithfully,  
M. AL FAYED, Chairman,  
Harrods,  
Knightsbridge, SW1,  
20 May.

## Water disconnections

*From Mr Bryan Hart*

Sir, Ms Barbara Murphy, of Thames Water (letter, May 18), notes that the company had a disconnection rate of four per 10,000 households, "which is close to the national average of three households per 10,000".

Maybe, but it would seem to be equally true to say the disconnection rate for Thames Water was one third higher than the national average.

I suppose it all depends on whether one is doing the disconnecting or being disconnected.

Yours sincerely,  
BRYAN HART,  
50 Birchwood Drive,  
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex,  
May 20.

## It's a cover-up

*From Mr William Goff*

Sir, Barely had I read Peter Knight's letter (May 13), wondering about the comparative benefits of Walk Shorts, Swinshirts and Vest Tops, than I received my monthly statement of account from the John Lewis Partnership informing me that one of their experienced fitters would measure me "in complete privacy" and discuss "any special needs" I might have, and then she would help me "choose the bra that is exactly right" for me.

Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM GOFF,  
Beech House,  
Saxlingham Nethergate,  
Norwich, Norfolk.

*From Dr Georges Ware*

Sir, Can I assure Peter Knight that I did not even find shorts, trunks and vests any better than my original logs, bin-bags and winter warmers.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGES WARE,  
85 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol,  
May 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 20: The Queen, Patron, Royal Horticultural Society, and the Duke of Edinburgh this evening visited the Chelsea Flower Show in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF-International, will visit Ogilvy and Mather, 10 Cabot Square, Canary Wharf, at 12.35, as President of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1981, will attend the commissioners' dinner at Armourers' Hall at 6.40.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Albrecht Dürer, painter and engraver, Nuremberg, 1471; Alexander Pope, poet, London, 1688; Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, Norwich, 1781; Henri Rousseau, painter, Laval, France, 1854; Mikhail Sholokhov, novelist, Kuzulinsk, Russia, 1905.

Appointment

Mr Julian Amey to be Director-General of the Hispanic and Lusio Brazilian Council at Canning House in succession to Sir Michael Simpson-Orlebar who retires at the end of May.

Chelsea Flower Show

Summer is slightly scaled down

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DESPITE a cold late spring with poor light, Chelsea Flower Show exhibitors have managed to stage most of the favourite summer flowers that visitors expect to see in the great marquees, albeit on a smaller scale in some instances.

Surrey, including some giant kinds with large globular flower heads in shades of mauve such as "Purple Sensation", "Gladiator" and "Rien Pourvillier".

School news



Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, is 52 today

Haberdareshers' Monmouth School for Girls
Speech Day and the Presentation of Prizes will be at 2pm on Thursday, May 23, 1996, the Guest Speaker being Mrs P.A. Penny, BA, Headmistress, Haberdareshers' Aske School for Girls, Elstree (Past President of GSA).

Gala evening

London String Quartet Foundation
The Duke of Gloucester attended a Gala Evening, arranged by the London String Quartet Foundation, at the Mansion House last night to mark Lord Menzies' 80th Birthday.

Luncheons

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Royal Society in honour of Mr Blagovest Sendov, Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament, and Mrs Senkova.

Legal appointments

Mr Justice Jowitt to be a Presiding Judge of the Midland and Oxford Circuit until December 31, 2000, in succession to Mr Justice Judge.

Memorial service

Sir Neil Lawson
The Sultan of Brunei was represented by C.O. Hinchey, P.C. at a memorial service for Sir Neil Lawson, former High Court Judge, held yesterday at the Temple Church.

Coopers' Company

The following have been elected Officers of the Coopers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr J.B. Holden; Upper Warden, Mr D. Barker; Under Warden, Mr G.C. Sutton.

Oxford Society

The Hon Lady Goodhart to be chairman of the executive committee of the Oxford Society in succession to Sir Julian Bullard who has retired.

Lincoln's Inn

Mr Douglas Henry Day, QC, and Mr John Bernard Goldring, QC, have been elected Benchers of Lincoln's Inn.

Dinners Forthcoming marriages

HM Lord High Commissioner The Princess Royal, Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, gave a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Meeting

Royal Over-Sea League
Mr Bill Jamieson, Economics Editor of The Sunday Telegraph, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Sea League held last night at Over-Sea House, St James's.

Latest wills

Mr Peter Edward Cook, of London NW3, the comedian and satirist, left estate in the UK valued at £908,229 net.

Cambridgeshire Lieutenancy

The following have been elected Deputy Lieutenants for Cambridgeshire:
Sir Terence English, Lady Hemmingsford, Mr Jeremy Allen Newport, Mr Charles Edwin Walter Saunders, Sir Roger Tomkyns and Mr Alan Gordon Turner.

Staffordshire Lieutenancy

The following have been elected Deputy Lieutenants for Staffordshire:
Wing Commander J.E. Bates, Mrs A. Fender, Colonel K.B.S. Sethi and Colonel K.R. Smith.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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Jost 2: 22 0623.

DEATHS
BAYLY - Betty (née Crow), widow of Peter, died peacefully at home Friday 17th May, Private Crematorium, London. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London. Funeral at 11am on Friday 24th May at St. Andrew's Church, London. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

DEATHS
COMER - Henry C. On 16th May 1996, aged 90 years, peacefully at home. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

DEATHS
HARVEY - Edward Michael, died peacefully at home Friday 17th May, Private Crematorium, London. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

DEATHS
LORR - On May 17th 1996 at home in Great North Wood, London. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

DEATHS
RHIND - Very suddenly, after a long illness, died peacefully at home Friday 17th May 1996. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

DEATHS
SCHULY - Sylvia Patricia Jean (née Cautley) died peacefully at home Friday 17th May 1996. Buried in the Church of St. Andrew, London. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, London.

THANKS/GIVING SERVICES
MOCKING - A Service of Commemoration for the late Mrs F.D.M. Hocking will be held at Christ Church Parish Church, Oxford, on Sunday June 9th at 2.30 pm.

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OBITUARIES

JON PERTWEE

Jon Pertwee, actor, died yesterday aged 76. He was born on July 7, 1919.

JON PERTWEE was the third actor to play the title role in Dr Who for television. He took over from Patrick Troughton in the seventh season of the series in 1970, and remained with it for five years, before cosmetically "regenerating" before the eyes of horrified children, into a new Doctor played by Tom Baker.

Pertwee's five-year stint as the Doctor encompassed some radical changes to the BBC children's programme. Instead of the Tardis (an acronym for Time and Relative Dimensions in Space), Unit HQ became the Doctor's new base of operations, and a team of Unit personnel, led by Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, joined the Doctor's regular team of daring female companions. Despite the new format, the onus for making the programme work rested as firmly as ever on the shoulders of the Doctor. Pertwee took a risk on playing him as a camp, charismatic scientist, resplendently dressed for time travel in a velvet smoking jacket, ruffled shirt and red satin lined cape.

Although Pertwee was quick to acknowledge the blessing which Dr Who and later TV's *Worzel Gummidge* had bestowed upon his career, he had mixed feelings about being forever manacled, in the public imagination, to children's television. He had also done excellent work in radio, theatre, vaudeville, cabaret. He had appeared in 120 films and was doing an energetic one-man show in his mid-seventies. But, while he had enjoyed a comfortable, profitable career, and was rarely out of work, there was also something rather chaotic about his curriculum vitae. It lacked the sort of single-minded focus which propels less talented individuals to greater heights.

John Devyn Roland Pertwee was born into a family so closely linked with the stage that a career in anything but showbusiness would have been considered eccentric. Four doughty great aunts — the Moore sisters — were actresses. His father Roland was a playwright and a novelist, and had been a friend of Gerald du Maurier, the author of *Trilby*. Pertwee had served tea to Laurence Olivier by the time he was in his teens. But the inevitability of his career, he felt later on, may have told against him: "Because it was the family business I never had to struggle to join it — I took it for granted, which is maybe why I've never taken it seriously enough."

Pertwee was educated at Sherborne and then joined RADA. During the 1930s he went through the traditional learning school of repertory theatre, interspersed with odd jobs. On commercial radio, he began to make a name for himself with his chameleon-



like ability to hop from one accent and dialect to another at great speed. During the war he served in the RNVR as an officer. He was appointed to HMS Hood from which he was extremely fortunate to be returned to shore, along with 16 others, shortly before that vessel was sunk by the Bismarck — going down in nine seconds. He ended his service career with the broadcasting section of the Navy, where he met Eric Barker. This led, after the war, to work on Barker's *Waterlogged Spa* and for *The Navy Lark*, where Pertwee played an enormous range of characters: Commander High-Price, Robin Fly, the Bugler from Plymouth Barracks, and Dai, the Welsh storyteller, among others. He played Mr Burp for Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warriss in *Up the Pole*. He enjoyed the camaraderie of working in the sort of small group which radio entailed.

Those in the business were beginning to take notice of Pertwee, although they were not quite sure what to make of him at first — "potentially nearly as versatile as Jack Train" was one assessment in 1948. Someone else noted that he looked rather too like Danny Kaye for his own good, and that this may be why he hid himself "under a mass of crêpe hair". The general consensus was that he should concentrate on one form of acting: radio, variety or film, but Pertwee gaily ignored this. He began his film career in the late 1930s, and continued through the 1950s juggling television, radio work and summer shows. He took small parts in a host of *Carry On* films.

In 1969 came the decisive moment when Pertwee was asked to take over as Dr Who. The longest-running children's drama had begun life in November 1963. The first episode was about a young girl whose curiously first-hand understanding of history astonished her teachers at school. They follow her into what appears to be an ordinary police telephone box (in fact the Tardis), and meet there her eccentric grandfather, Dr Who, who is in fact a time traveller. Dr Who was played first by William Hartnell, and then by Patrick Troughton, both with great success. However, in a survey of Doctors past and present over the past three decades, the Pertwee and Tom Baker interpretations are considered by many to be the finest.

Pertwee's five seasons with the show introduced such new story lines and characters as the Master, a renegade Time Lord, the dramatic equivalent of Bond's Blofeld, who remained with the show after Pertwee left it. Other strong episodes included encounters with Solonian mutants, and, of course, the Daleks.

Pertwee left the show at the end of the eleventh season, keen to get back to the excitement of live performance. He spent a few years in the West End with musicals like *Irene*. Then in 1979 he returned to the small screen, this time with Southern Television, in a Sunday evening children's programme written by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, *Worzel Gummidge*, about a tender-hearted, walking, talking scarecrow, had started life as a children's book in the 1930s and then enjoyed a great success on *Children's Hour* on the radio. Pertwee played the title role in four successive television seasons, and won impressive viewing figures from an army of five-year-olds. However, while the show certainly consolidated his appeal with very young children, it could never hope to have the same sort of mass appeal as his role as Dr Who.

In the end, Pertwee was philosophical about having become a national institution as the Doctor. He recently did a radio series for the BBC, *The Ghost in Space*, for which he once more brushed down his old black cape, and he spoke to many conventions of fans. For the last two years he toured Britain with his one-man show, *Who is Jon Pertwee?*, a biographical overview of his career which drew heavily on the experience of playing the Doctor. He was determined to carry on working and appeared as fit and enthusiastic as ever, even under the rigours of the Christmas pantomime season. There was no illness, and his death came unexpectedly, while he was on holiday in America.

Jon Pertwee married the actress Jean Marsh in 1955. That marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife, Ingeborg, a novelist, and by their son and daughter.

SIMON WEINSTOCK

Simon Weinstock, a director of GEC since 1987, died from cancer on May 18 aged 54. He was born on February 24, 1952.



MOST of the things Simon Weinstock did in his life he did with his father. Lord Weinstock, the managing director of General Electric Company. Both were keen music lovers and opera-goers, and they shared a passion for horse racing, together owning and breeding a string of first-class horses.

They also increasingly cooperated in their professional lives. After a spell as a merchant banker, Weinstock followed his father, in 1983, to GEC where he later became a director.

It was on the racecourse that Weinstock was happiest and gained the most success in his joint ventures with his father. The pair were involved in racing for more than twenty years and shared the horses which ran under the Weinstock name. Their latest success came when Election Day was the first to cross the line in the Aston Park Stakes at Newbury last Saturday.

Simon Andrew Weinstock's interest in horses, inspired by his father, was already evident during his school days at Winchester College. At Winchester, not known for its links to horse racing, he stood out as one of the few pupils with a real understanding of horses. Soon he came to the attention of the one or two older boys who shared his interest and, among these, formed a lifelong friendship with Lord Huntingdon.

Huntingdon went on to train for the Weinstocks when he took over the reins at West Isley seven years ago. "His father was always happy to leave his racing interests in his son's hands," Huntingdon recalled, "and Simon obviously made a very good job of it." But, despite all their domestic success, it was a long-held ambition of the family to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. They had a series of near-misses there and were placed four or five times.

Weinstock read Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford, after which he went to work with S.G. Warburg as an investment banker. While working at Warburg's he ad-

between eight trainers in Britain and France — the former including Nash House, a leading fancy for next month's Vodafone Derby. Weinstock also had a share in last year's Irish 2,000 Guineas and Champion Stakes winner, Spectrum.

The pride and joy of the family was the dual Derby and King George winner Troy, trained by Major Dick Hern, although the filly Sun Princess completed the Oaks-St Leger double in the family's famous colours.

In 1980 Weinstock also had his own colours carried to victory when he bought Elamana-Mou, and witnessed the horse's successes in the Eclipse and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes. Weinstock was considered an expert on breeding and form and gained a large amount of influence about the placing of the family horses. Although he was a quiet man who did not like to show emotions at work, he was jubilant whenever his horses won.

Weinstock's passion for opera was so strong that he would plan his family holidays specifically to be near the great European opera houses. He often visited the Salzburg festival and La Scala, Milan, with his father.

In his character he was almost a reverse mirror image of his father. He was shy and softly spoken: some thought his shyness was not helped by working for his extrovert father. The longer he was at GEC, however, the more confident he became and, as his responsibilities grew, he was thought of less and less as the chairman's son.

All that changed again when GEC started to look for a new chairman last year. Weinstock had never denied that he would like to follow in his father's footsteps, and his father evidently felt the same as he announced his plans for retirement. But influential voices in the City warned against what they termed "running companies along delay lines". After some delay George Simpson, chief executive of Lucas Industries, was appointed.

In 1979 Weinstock married Laura Leigh, whose late father Sir Francis was Princess Margaret's treasurer. She survives him, as do their three daughters.

GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

George Malcolm Thomson, OBE, author, aide to Lord Beaverbrook and later chief leader writer for the *Daily Express*, died yesterday aged 96. He was born on August 2, 1899.

OF ALL the first Lord Beaverbrook's well-sung roll of "backroom boys" the chief — and most esteemed — was George Malcolm Thomson, who came south to join the Beaverbrook entourage in 1931.

Thomson, quiet, shrewd, erudite, politically astute and

gifted with an acute sense of humour, served Beaverbrook for 33 years with dedication and skill. Under a deceptively unassuming exterior he maintained an unshakable self-reliance and, during Beaverbrook's greatest days as Minister of Aircraft Production (from May 1940 to May 1941), wielded a unique influence over his mercurial master — whom he regarded with a quizzical, but never uncritical, affection.

He was, indeed, one of the comparatively few of the Beaverbrook courtiers who rarely held back from warning him

off impulsive decisions when they were obviously unwise. Because Beaverbrook held him in such regard, more often than not he would, under loud protest, accept Thomson's persuasively-pivoted advice.

George Malcolm Thomson, a Scot through and through, was born in Leith, the eldest son of Charles Thomson and his wife Mary (née Eason). He was educated at Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh, whence he went on to Edinburgh University before beginning his journalistic career on various Edinburgh newspapers. In 1927 he published

his first book, *Caledonia or the Future of the Scots*, followed by *A Short History of Scotland*. Both books were acclaimed in Scotland and earned the lively interest of Lord Beaverbrook.

As a result Percy Cudlipp, then in high favour on Beaverbrook's *Evening Standard*, was told in 1931 to invite Thomson to come to London. Once there, he was installed in the *Evening Standard* offices in Shoe Lane and quickly began to make his mark. Contributing to "The Londoner's Diary" in the *Evening Standard* and short, pithy

pieces for the "Cross-Bencher" column in the *Sunday Express*, he assimilated the staccato Beaverbrook style and was switched to specialise for Beaverbrook on economic policy and political affairs, drafting many of Beaverbrook's own articles as a pliable "ghost".

When on May 14, 1940, Churchill appointed Beaverbrook to be the first Minister of Aircraft Production, with his office first at Stornoway House, St James's, before moving to Millbank. Thomson went with him as his principal private secretary and confidant: the most trusted of his small personal staff, alongside his personal secretary David Farrer and his butler Albert Nockels.

Thomson was thus at Beaverbrook's elbow throughout the whirlwind year at the Ministry of Aircraft Production and moved with him, in June 1941, to the Ministry of Supply at Shell Mex House in the Strand. Later in 1941 he accompanied Beaverbrook on his mission to Stalin in Moscow, of which his personal account, among the Beaverbrook papers, is not only absorbing but also high entertainment. In February 1942 Thomson was with Beaverbrook during his brief time in the offices of the War Cabinet as Minister of Production.

Between March and October 1942, Thomson returned to the glass and chrome building of the *Daily Express* in Fleet Street while spending much

time with Lord Beaverbrook, out of office, at Arlington Street, Brook Street and at his country retreat, Cherkeley, near Leatherhead. During this time he collaborated with David Farrer, later a publisher, on a highly original, inside account of the days at the Ministry of Aircraft Production — published in 1943 as *The Sky's The Limit*. Shortly thereafter he accompanied Beaverbrook with Churchill to Washington on board the *Queen Mary*.

In October 1943 Thomson was back with Beaverbrook at Cwydyr House in Whitehall when Beaverbrook returned to office in the War Cabinet as Lord Privy Seal, charged with preparations for postwar air transport. The new minister was particularly concerned with the deliberations of the Brabazon committee on future British civil transport aircraft and with negotiations with the State Department in Washington for an international air transport conference, eventually held in Chicago in November and December 1944.

Thomson was in the thick of this as Beaverbrook's principal secretary on all but aviation affairs, these latter being delegated to Peter Masefield, brought in from liaison work between the RAF and the United States 8th Air Force. There were further visits to Washington and intensive negotiations which led to the Chicago conference and, eventually, to the Anglo-American



Bermuda Agreement of 1946. After the 1945 general election, Thomson was back in Fleet Street, now as chief leader writer for the *Daily Express*, under first Arthur Christiansen and then Edward Pickering, and as chief book reviewer for the *Evening Standard*, then under Herbert Gunn — but always close personally to Beaverbrook.

During his many years with the *Daily Express*, Thomson was particularly close to the paper's pocket cartoonist, Osbert Lancaster. Every evening at around 5pm Lancaster would arrive at "the black Lubyanka" in Fleet Street, go straight to Thomson's office,

gossip for about half-an-hour and then produce his front-page pocket cartoon (of which Thomson had normally been the catalyst). They were the closest of friends, frequently meeting at the Garrick Club, of which they were both highly popular members.

Thomson continued to serve the Beaverbrook organisation as one of its elder statesmen until his retirement in 1970. He was held in high esteem by Lord Beaverbrook right up to the time of the latter's death in 1964. During this time not only did Thomson spend many days with "the Lord" at Cherkeley in Surrey but also at his villa, *La Capponcina*, at Cap d'Ail in the South of France where, as he described it, he was treated to "highly individual surveys of the pageant of British political history from 1911 to 1945".

Through all this time Thomson wrote some 20 books, most of them well-researched biographies and political commentaries. They included notably *The Crime of Mary Stuart* (1967), *The First Churchill*, *John Duke of Marlborough* (1979) and *The Prime Ministers* (1980). He was appointed OBE in 1990.

George Malcolm Thomson was married twice: in 1926 to Else Ellesen of Toensberg, Norway, who died in 1957, and then in 1963 to Diana Van Cortlandt Robertson. She survives him, along with the son and daughter of his first marriage.

out and Mr. Pickles a little breathlessly asked a pertinent question about Conservative estimates of the cost of putting Labour's social service programme into effect. We had a swift glimpse of Mr. Morrison rubbing his hands as Mr. Gaiskell dealt with that one. He accused the Conservatives jauntily of having thought of a number and then multiplied it by 40. He admitted freely that some items would cost money, for instance the speeding up of the repayment of post-war credits and such items as education and National Assistance schemes.

With his eye on the clock Mr. Pickles swiftly asked if the Labour Party did not expect to put up any taxes, Mr. Gaiskell saw no reason why they should put up taxes and hoped there would be some margin to enable them to reduce taxes on lower incomes.

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Enterprise UK boost for ethnic companies

BY BRIAN COLLETT

AN EXHIBITION of ethnic businesses and their products is now likely to be an annual event in Britain.

The Enterprise UK '96 exhibition at the Barbican Centre, London, this month was Europe's largest gathering of Asian and African Caribbean businesses under one roof.

The main aim of the exhibition, besides displaying ethnic businesses to potential customers, is to emphasise that they are not all hair salons, bakeries, corner shops and Indian restaurants.

The exhibition resulted directly from last year's Race for Opportunity Campaign, in which leading British companies committed themselves to using ethnic suppliers.

Ms Marsh said: "Our exhibition attracted some people who came out of curiosity, but most people were there to do business and to network. The general feeling was a hopeful one. I spoke to people who said they had transacted more business there than they had done for the whole year."

Seminars were hosted by Barbara Roche, Labour's small business spokeswoman, Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, and an Inland Revenue representative.

Ann Vanderpuye-Williams, of Netscope Marketing, said: "I think it is important to highlight the achievements of ethnic businesses that are contributing to the diversity of Britain's culture. I also think it is important for ethnic businesses to network and show off their wares."

More than 60 small businesses set up with help from The Prince's Youth Business Trust will take part in a Meet The Buyer day at Old Trafford cricket ground, Manchester, on June 4. Instead of the suppliers taking stands as they do at an exhibition, the buyers from large companies and organisations will set up an office where the small businesses can present their services.

Student finds fulfilment in grave responsibility

Rodney Hobson meets a young man in the running for Livewire of the year

THOUSANDS of young people have competed for the annual Livewire awards, but few have come up with an idea as unusual as Timothy Maltin's business. He tends other people's graves.

His service is so popular he now employs a network of gardeners to provide a nationwide service.

Mr Maltin, 23, has already won the South West area final of Livewire and today he hopes to beat ten other finalists in the national awards for the title of young entrepreneur of the year. The awards are supported by Shell and the winner and two runners-up will share £7,000. Apart from a good business idea, all the finalists had to demonstrate a sound understanding of the importance of thorough preparation and good business planning.

Mr Maltin got his idea from his personal circumstances. He says: "My family lives in Marlborough in Wiltshire, but our family grave is at Maidenhead in Berkshire. I realised that there must be a lot of people in the same position."

Although he was taking a degree in English at Newcastle University, he felt he was unlikely to get a job for which he was qualified. "I decided I wanted to work for myself. I had been a keen gardener from an early age so wielding a pair of shears was not alien to me."

Pilgrim Services was established ten months ago with help from the local training and enterprise council. Initially, he charged a fee plus

mileage to tidy plots and clean the masonry twice a year. "I was travelling 250 miles a day looking after 150 graves as far away as the Lake District and Norwich. I spent a week in the office then a week on a tending spree."

Now he has 83 agents, mainly keen gardeners, to do the work and charges a flat annual rate of £65 for two visits. Mr Maltin still tends 20 graves in his area, but as the client base grows he is considering appointing a local gardener. He says: "I am very busy answering customers' inquiries, filing a huge amount of paperwork, allocating jobs and processing films."

The films are part of his quality control. Agents must take before-and-after photographs of the graves to prove the job has been done. Mr Maltin says: "Graves are visited within 28 days of a new client contacting me. I send all my agents a 20-page pack detailing how to do the grave-tending. They cut the grass, clip the edge and clean the monument. They don't pour on weedkiller, they take the weeds out from the roots; they use a scrubbing brush to remove algae from the stone and let me know if masonry work needs doing."

Many clients are over 70 and are looking after the graves of parents or spouses. Mr Maltin says: "They are caring people, but they do not have the strength, time, energy or tools to do the job."

Timothy Maltin: 01672 851851



Timothy Maltin: "wielding a pair of shears was not alien to me"

Tax roadblock waits round the corner for company cars

By RODNEY HOBSON

SMALL businesses and the self-employed could be heading for hefty penalties from the Inland Revenue if they fail to keep full mileage records of cars used on company business. Penalties under the new self-assessment for income tax range up to £3,000 for each failure to comply with the regulations, plus further penalties and charges for back tax and interest if tax has been underpaid.

Accountants and business consultants say that small businesses have failed to realise the impact of the tax changes on car allowances. Stefanie Bowman, who runs a tax and business consultancy at Lutworth, Leicestershire, says excuses for failing to keep a log of business mileages include: it has never been necessary before; I have not got the time because I am too busy earning a living; the Inland Revenue is unlikely to pick on me; and I keep all my business receipts and bank statements, surely that is enough.

She says: "From April this year there can be hefty penalties under self-assessment if you cannot substantiate claims for business costs and reliefs against business income. An error in your tax claim for business use of your car can result in underpaid tax in two areas, capital allowances and running costs."

The percentage of total mileage that is accounted for by business use is used to calculate the capital allowance. For example, a car costing £8,000 and used entirely for business purposes would allow the business to claim £2,000, a quarter of the purchase price, off taxable income. If the car was used 50-50

for business and private use, the allowance would be halved. The percentage of business mileage would also be used to calculate the amount of running costs that could be deducted from tax.

Mrs Bowman says where a business claimed 90 per cent business use for a car that was in fact used only 50 per cent for business, the allowances overclaimed could be as high as £1,400 for a modest car with £1,500 running costs. That would result in a £336 underpayment for a standard taxpayer or £560 for a 40 per cent taxpayer.

She says: "Don't forget that the figures refer to one year only, not including National Insurance, and the Inland Revenue can go back six years. There will be interest and penalties on top. Do you want to take the risk of not keeping a business log?"

The log should show business mileage on a daily basis. It is not enough to write down something like 10 x 45 miles for trips to a regular supplier or customer. The log should show the date and starting and ending point of a journey, the name of the business or individual visited and the mileometer reading at the start and end of each tax year.

Mrs Bowman says the Inland Revenue is unlikely to go hard on any business that starts keeping full records now, even if mileage from April 6 to the present date has to be estimated. She says: "There is some doubt about how the Inland Revenue will cope given a brand new system and cuts in staffing levels. It is believed that there will be a certain amount of lenience for 1996-97, but do not bank on it."



"I started out as a small businessman - now I'm a martyr to red tape"

Latest figures from government departments show the Treasury-Solicitor's office was late in paying bills totalling almost £1 million last year and the Treasury Solicitor's department paid a quarter of its bills late, according to Barbara Roche, Labour's business spokeswoman.

Small businesses are being sought to accept a student placement under the Shell Technology and Enterprise Programme (STEP). This is the tenth year of the programme and last year 1,200 businesses took part. The students

BRIEFINGS

are undergraduates in their second year and receive a minimum of £100 a week, half paid by the business. Businesses should write to the STEP office, 11 St Bride Street, London EC4A 4AS. The fourth Hampshire Innovation Competition is launched this week for businesses with fewer than 200 employees and individual inventors in Hampshire and adjoining counties. Entry details

from South East Hants Enterprise Agency on 01705 666222.

More than 12,500 jobs resulted from free business counselling by 100 enterprise agencies last year, a new survey says. The National Federation of Enterprise Agencies, which carried out the research, reports that the agencies in the survey gave 131,097 counselling sessions, 10.3 per cent fewer than in 1994, but this was probably

because the Government scrapped its £40-a-week Enterprise Allowance Scheme in April last year.

IBM has launched a new electronic point-of-sale till aimed at small retailers. The cost of SureOne is £1,700-£2,500. Details from Tony Cumming on 01705 492949.

Scottish Financial Enterprise has published its annual yearbook with information on companies, organisations and services in Scotland. Copies cost £10 for members and £25 for non-members. Contact Dawn Burgess, SFE, 91 George Street, Edinburgh.

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Advertisement for 'The British Franchise Exhibition - Manchester' featuring various franchise opportunities and contact information for Sarah Hamilton.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 21 1996

Court of Appeal

Savings urged by more use of admissions

Regina v Jackson
Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Holland and Judge Stephens, QC

Mr Whittaker provided similar evidence with respect to blood found on Caffrey's trousers...

Further, where the existence or non-existence of some fact is in issue a report made by an expert who is not called as a witness is not admissible as evidence of that fact...

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held giving reserved reasons for dismissing on May 7 an appeal by Terry Paul Jackson...

There was no reaction from the defendant's advisers with respect to that statement in opening proceedings counsel made use of the content of Mr Whittaker's statement without any objection.

Meanwhile, although the defence must have the right to examine the assistants of expert witnesses if it so chooses, we look to the courts and to the parties to make maximum use of the facility to present the evidence of assistants in written form until such time as the law is changed.

Miss Amanda Tedure, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant: Mr Peter McGrath for the Crown.

None of the submissions of "no case" made on behalf of the three defendants was based on Mr Whittaker's professional interpretation of that which had not been directly proved.

Whereas individually they had not previously encountered a statement in written form until such time as the law is changed, their Lordships believed that the device was not uncommon.

Legal costs and fines not deductible for tax

McKnight (Inspector of Taxes) v Sheppard
Sheppard v McKnight (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Lightman (Judgment May 14)

Legal costs and fines incurred by a stockbroker in connection with disciplinary proceedings brought against him alleging acts of dishonesty and misconduct were not deductible as revenue expenditure in calculating the taxable profits of his business.

Having deliberately departed from the rules of the Stock Exchange and from the lawful conduct of his business, the expenditure, although incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of his trade, did not have a sufficient connection with the trader to carry on and earn profits...

There was no reason for adopting, as regarded expenditure in defending disciplinary proceedings, any different rule from that applicable in respect of the costs of defending civil proceedings.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown from the determination of a special commissioner, Mr Theodore Wallace, that had held expenditure of £202,246 incurred by the taxpayer, Brian Sheppard, on legal fees was deductible under Case I of Schedule D.

The risk of disciplinary proceedings was not a normal trade risk in the taxpayer's business, and his profit-earning activity was not sufficiently connected with the profit-earning activity to qualify the disbursements and expenses flowing from it as allowable deductions.

Misuse of fresh water fishing licensing powers

Regina v National Rivers Authority, Ex parte Haughey
Before Mr Justice Brooke

On January 25, 1996 not to renew his fishing licences for three salmon coops at Corby Castle on the River Eden, Cumbria for the 1996 season.

Otherwise likely to be over-fished. Of course it was entitled to decline to specify in a licence an instrument whose use for killing salmon would be clearly unlawful, such as those specified in section 1 of the 1975 Act.

Mr Robin Barratt, QC, for Dr Haughey, Mr Stephen Sauvain, QC, for the NRA.

Mr Justice Brooke said that the issue was whether the authority was entitled to maintain that because of the effect of works to the weir on the flow of the river, Dr Haughey's coops or fish engines could no longer benefit from the privilege conferred by a certificate issued in 1967 excluding them from a general ban on such fixed engines found in section 6 of the 1975 Act.

But it was not entitled to use its licensing powers as a means of enforcing its side of the argument in an ongoing dispute concerning works done under section 109 of the Water Resources Act 1989.

Power to grant anti-suit injunction

Airbus Industrie GIE v Patel and Others
Before Mr Justice Colman (Reasons April 23)

An English court could grant an anti-suit injunction to restrain proceedings in any jurisdiction except one specified jurisdiction even when that jurisdiction was not England. The court would grant such an injunction only if the plaintiff could show that proceedings in one or more of those jurisdictions was a matter of sufficient injustice to outweigh the considerations of comity which would otherwise cause the English courts to refrain from interference in the pursuit of litigation in a foreign court which had accepted jurisdiction.

On the whole of the evidence no decisive balance of injustice to Airbus was made out if the injunction were not granted. The continued pursuit by the defendants of the Texas action was not vexatious or oppressive, and accordingly this was not an appropriate case for the English court to grant an anti-suit injunction.

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Nokia advertisement for the New digital Nokia 100 hours of power! featuring a Nokia 1610 mobile phone and promotional offers like £9.99 and Freephone 0500 000 888.

Advertisement for THE TIMES Crème 96, featuring a large image of the magazine cover and text about a seminar and conference on 'Fasttrack Conference on secretaries and the computer revolution'.

Advertisement for DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, offering services like 24 HOUR LIVE TELEPHONE ANSWERING and DISCREET SURVEILLANCE.

£25,000 on offer in competition

# Continental cream can land tasty Euro ITF prize

THERE are just 12 days to go before England and Switzerland meet at Wembley to launch Euro 96, the biggest sporting event to be staged in Britain since the 1966 World Cup, and with it comes the chance to win a prize of £25,000 as *The Times*, in association with Winterthur, invites entries to its Euro Interactive Team Football competition.



In association with **winterthur**

By selecting 11 players and a manager, entrants will be able to follow the fortunes of their team as it accumulates points throughout the championship. The overall winner will collect £25,000, and there are also four £1,000 prizes for the best team performances in each of the first four sections.

Entrants can choose their teams from some of the most talented players on the Continent. You could, for example, have Jürgen Klinsmann partnered by Alan Shearer in attack. Is David Seaman the most dependable goalkeeper, and would Andrei Kanchelskis, the Russia winger, help your team to take off? The choice is yours, although you must not pick more than two individuals (two players, or one player and a manager) from the same country.

Full details of how to play and how to enter are given below. It is also possible to play Euro ITF on the Internet.

On the opposite page, *The Times* panel of experts has listed the players most likely to play in the European championship finals — only five nations have so far announced their 22-man squads — but, if there are a few players listed who do not eventually appear as members of the 16 parties, and you find that you have chosen one or more for your team, do not worry. Simply use the telephone alteration line, the number for which is given below, to change your team.

### ALTERATIONS

You may alter as many players as is necessary, but you may only use the alteration line once to amend a team. If you attempt to use the

alteration line more than once for any one team, that team will revert to its original form. The line will be open 24 hours a day, from 6am on Tuesday, June 4, until noon on Saturday, June 8. You must, however, make sure that you still do not include more than two individuals from any one country (including the manager), and that you still include one (but no more than one) Rising Star.

The telephone alteration line is:

0891 771238

The number for readers in the Republic of Ireland is 004 4990 200 631.

### TRANSFERS

The Euro ITF competition is separated into five transfer sections. For each section, you may transfer up to five individuals (including the manager), but you may only use the transfer facility once for each team. If used more than once, that team will revert to its original form.

During Section 1 (Saturday, June 8 to Tuesday, June 11 inclusive), team selectors will be able to transfer up to (but no more than) five individuals, the transfers becoming effective from the commencement of Section 2. During Section 2 (Thursday, June 13 to Sunday, June 16 inclusive), team selectors may register their next transfers, which will become effective for matches in Section 3, and during Section 3 (Tuesday, June 18 to Wednesday, June 19 inclusive) they may register their transfers which will become effective for matches in Section 4.

During Section 4, which covers the four quarter-finals, team selectors may now choose up to four individuals from any one country, which will become effective for matches in Section 5, which covers the semi-finals and final.

The transfer line telephone number will be announced in *The Times* shortly.



Hughes reckons that his Eastern European striking partnership of Stoichkov and Boksic would present difficulties to any defence

## Golden boys valued by Hughes

Mark Hughes, the Wales striker, tells James Willoughby about the players that he has selected for his Euro ITF team

I am thoroughly convinced that Euro 96 is going to give football in Britain a massive boost. The tournament really needs England to perform well to set it alight and I think they have a good chance of at least reaching the semi-finals.

To start off my team, I picked Angelo Peruzzi, of Italy, not because I am a particular fan of his, but because I do not think he will concede many goals playing behind a strong Italian defence. He is their first-choice keeper at the moment.

In front of Peruzzi, my central defenders are Gary Pallister, of England, and Jürgen Kohler, of Germany. Pallister is the best central defender in the FA Carling Premiership — definitely my toughest opponent — and, as

the Premiership is one of the best leagues in the world, he must be included in any all-European team.

Kohler is a terrific player for any team to have. As we are playing a 4-4-2 here, he is a central defender, but he can slot in just about anywhere in any system if need be.

My full backs are Stefan Reuter, of Germany, and Frank de Boer, of Holland. Having two German players in my defence isn't going to hurt because they are so well organised at the back that they are just not going to leak goals during the tournament. De Boer is another very versatile man and a real asset

to the Dutch. In midfield I am going with Michael Laudrup, of Denmark, Alessandro Del Piero, of Italy, Holland's Edgar Davids, and Paul Ince.

Laudrup's experience — he has nearly 90 caps — would be a bonus to my side and I

see him linking well with Ince, who is more of a goal threat than he used to be. Davids and Del Piero are meant to be the golden boys of their respective countries. We shall see what they are made of in the heat of competition, but having a

youngster with fire in his belly is no bad thing.

Up front, I think that an Eastern European strikeforce of Croatia's Alen Boksic and Hristo Stoichkov, of Bulgaria, would frighten every defence in the world. These two are among my favourite strikers. In Boksic's favour is that Croatia are going to do very well in Euro 96: forget the game with England at Wembley, they are much better than that under tournament conditions. Stoichkov is an amazingly talented player, absolutely brilliant in fact, and he can score goals against any opposition. Without him, Bulgaria would be half the team they showed when reaching the semi-final of the last World Cup. Aimé Jacquet, of France, is my choice as manager.

### MARK HUGHES'S EURO ITF TEAM

- Goalkeeper: 10302...Angelo Peruzzi (Italy)
- Full backs: 2731...Stefan Reuter (Germany), 2231...Frank de Boer (Holland)
- Centre defenders: 20202...Gary Pallister (England), 30723...Jürgen Kohler (Germany)
- Midfield players: 40441...Michael Laudrup (Denmark), 40841...Edgar Davids (Holland - FR), 40543...Paul Ince (England), 40844...Alessandro Del Piero (Italy)
- Strikers: 50182...Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria), 50251...Alen Boksic (Croatia)
- Manager: 60651...Aimé Jacquet (France)

### PLAY EURO ITF ON THE INTERNET

IT IS easy to play Euro Interactive Team Football on the Internet. Enter a team for just £5, and you can make all your player transfers free on-line. Special screens will allow you to check the performance of your team and individual players.

Internet players are also eligible for special £250 prizes, as well as the prizes in the main competition.

Enter *The Times* Internet edition home page on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

and click on to the Euro ITF "Button". You can pay by credit card on-line or, if you prefer, by post. To enter by post you will need to print out an entry form from *The Times* Internet site and send it to the Euro ITF entry address (details below), with a postal or money order for £5 sterling. In return, you will receive a special PIN number enabling you to enter your team on the site.



**GOALKEEPER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL BACK**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CENTRAL DEFENDER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MIDFIELD PLAYER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**STRIKER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MANAGER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW TO PLAY**

Enter to select a team of 11 players, including one Rising Star, and a manager.

Do not pick:

- GOALKEEPER 2 FULL BACKS
- CENTRAL DEFENDERS 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS
- STRIKERS 1 MANAGER

Entrants are and the manager must be chosen from the Euro Interactive Team Football category lists (which include names and numbers).

Do not pick more than two individuals (two players, or one player and a manager) from the same country. Entrants must select one player (and no more than one) from each country, and are deposited by country (which is the category) into the Euro Interactive Team Football category lists (which include names and numbers).

Do not pick more than one player (and no more than one) from each country, and are deposited by country (which is the category) into the Euro Interactive Team Football category lists (which include names and numbers).

The team with the most points at the end of the competition will win £25,000. There will also be four £1,000 prizes for the best team performances in each of the first four sections. If there is more than one winner, a tie-break will be applied. If there is still more than one winner, the prizes will be shared.

**BY POST**

Fill in the entry form on the full, right-hand page (which is not detachable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 made payable to *The Times Euro ITF* to Euro Interactive Team Football, Abchurch House, Dordley Street, London, EC3A 7DF. Do not put your name on the envelope. Postal orders will receive a letter of acknowledgement and their Personal Identification Number (PIN) and form.

**BY TELEPHONE**

Once you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a # key are Touch-Tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or 'pulse' telephone. Once you have found a

**TRANSFERS**

Euro ITF will introduce a transfer system shortly after the start of the game in which you will be able to transfer up to five players (including a manager) per section. Transfers will only be made by telephone.

**HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS**

POINTS SCORED	POINTS DEDUCTED
Scored goal (including penalty shoot-out).....+1	ALL PLAYERS
Scored goal (including penalty shoot-out).....+2	Conceded goal (including penalty shoot-out).....-1
Scored goal (including penalty shoot-out).....+3	Missed penalty (including penalty shoot-out).....-1
Scored penalty in penalty shoot-out.....+3	Scored own goal.....-1
Appearance.....+1	MANAGER
Scored goal in extra time.....+4	Team losses in group match.....-1
Keeps clean sheet* (including penalty shoot-out).....+3	Team losses in quarter-final, semi-final or final.....-3
Scored goal (including penalty shoot-out).....+3	Team wins in group match.....+1
MIDFIELD PLAYER	Team wins in quarter-final, semi-final or final.....+6
Keeps clean sheet* (including penalty shoot-out).....+1	

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

**EXAMPLE**

Your midfield player scores three goals (3 x 2pts = 6pts), is booked (minus 1pt), misses a penalty (minus 1pt) and plays throughout (1pt) in a 3-0 win (clean sheet = 1pt). He has scored 6 points in that match.

**TO ENTER BY PHONE CALL 0891 405 011**

Costs cost 30p per min. charges apply, 40p per min. at other times. Calls should last approximately 8 mins.

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Goalkeeper: \_\_\_\_\_ (up to 16 characters)

Full back: \_\_\_\_\_

Central defender: \_\_\_\_\_

Midfielder: \_\_\_\_\_

Striker: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your entries (with £2 entry fee) to: Euro Interactive Team Football, Abchurch House, Dordley Street, London, EC3A 7DF

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(4) 35-44  (5) 45-54  (6) occasionally

(7) 55-64  (8) 65+

If you do not wish to receive mailings from *The Times* or other companies, please tick this box

سكينة من الأمل

GOALKEEPERS

Table of Goalkeepers with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Borislev Mihailov, Dimitar Popov, Zoravko Zdravkov, etc.

FULL BACKS

Table of Full Backs with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Ilian Kiryalov, Dimitar Kishinev, Emil Krestev, etc.

Table of Full Backs (continued) with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Goshko Guanchev, Patar Huchev, Tzanko Tsvetanov, etc.

DEFENDING PLAYERS

Table of Defending Players with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Krasimir Balakov, Vladimir Borimirov, etc.



Patrick Kluijvert, above, of Holland, and Zvonimir Boban, below left, of Croatia, are two of the stars available for your Euro ITF team



Table of Defending Players (continued) with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Steve Stone, Dennis Wise, Didier Deschamps, etc.

Table of Defending Players (continued) with columns for Code, Player (Country/club), Age, and Caps. Includes players like Emil Kostadinov, Frlsto Stochkov, Nasko Strelkov, etc.

Vertical text on the left margin: MAY 21 1996, profits of up to 30p per share, pilots, head, ed £1.00, o death, lies at 70, need for

Graduates face £12,000 bill

Graduates would have to pay back at least £12,000 for the cost of their university education over 20 years under a Labour government, it will be announced today.

The scheme, which marks the end of Labour's commitment to free higher education, would replace the existing hybrid system of grants, loans and parental contributions.

Sexual harassment case WPC to appeal

A policewoman who claimed that sexual harassment by her fellow officers brought her close to a nervous breakdown lost her case yesterday against three colleagues and their force.

Archbishop named

The Bishop of Salford, the Right Rev Patrick Kelly, is to be named by today as the new Archbishop of Liverpool.

Nolan inquiry call

Labour last night demanded that the Nolan Commission on standards in public life investigate funding of the Conservative Party as the dispute intensified over an alleged donation from a Serbian businessman.

Air crash heroine

A nurse who staggered from the wreckage of an air ambulance, raised the alarm and returned to rescue an injured doctor was praised as a heroine.

Two-beer limit

British tourists risk being fined or jailed for drink-driving this summer unaware that the French alcohol limit has been cut.

Rooms with a view

Marble Arch, one of the most famous addresses in London, may soon go on the market after a refurbishment.

Tribal warfare

Wolfgang B is a happy man. His team Cologne has just escaped relegation and in a few weeks he will be having the fight of his life outside some British pub.

Forsyth faces the music

Rock music fans may be about to present Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, with the most difficult decision of his career. Eighty thousand tickets have been sold for two Oasis concerts in a conservation area on Loch Lomondside before planning permission has been granted.

Life in the fast lane

To describe Nevada's Silver State Classic Challenge as a race is misleading. It is not so much a competitive event as an excuse to drive as fast as one dares.

Likud funds vow

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud Party, has pledged to switch funds earmarked for the embryonic Palestinian Authority to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if he wins the May 29 election.

Peace pledge

Lee Teng-Hui, the President of Taiwan, has pledged to "embark on a journey of peace to mainland China" in his inaugural address.

Railtrack premium

Investors in Railtrack enjoyed substantial profits on the first day of share dealings.

BA savings

British Airways accounted record pre-tax profits of £585 million with plans to seek a further £1 billion of efficiency savings by the year 2000.

Courting favour

Grigori Yavlinsky, a young, charismatic and popular Russian politician, has manoeuvred himself into the role of kingmaker in the presidential elections.

Estate of Grace

Items owned by the late Princess Grace of Monaco may be auctioned for charity. Her son, Albert, visiting Manhattan, is said to be sympathetic to a sale.



Supporters of India's Hindu Bharatiya Janata party at a weekend victory rally in New Delhi addressed by the Prime Minister

Economic woes: European growth prospects have been revised down sharply by the OECD, even without taking account of stringent new budget deficit-cutting measures aimed at meeting the criteria for a single currency.

Football: Ian Rush, the Wales striker, signed a two-year contract with Leeds United worth an estimated £1 million. The move ends a supposedly successful 16 years with Liverpool.

Crickets: Dermot Reeve, the Warwickshire captain, was accused of questionable tactics by his opposite number as they lost by 122 runs to Hampshire at Edgbaston.

Boxing: Lennox Lewis is likely to meet Riddick Bowe in September in Las Vegas and then challenge for the world title in December or early in the new year.

Rugby union: Richmond, who have already signed five internationals, added Simon Mason, the Ireland full back, to their ranks.

French master: The glory of Degas is revealed in a new exhibition at the National Gallery which focuses on the later, and less lauded, years of his career.

Painter at heart: Looking at a work by Gillian Ayres, it soon becomes clear that this artist's chosen subject is painting itself.

Dancing high: The American choreographer Trisha Brown launches her British tour at the Brighton Festival with a fascinating programme that mixes new with old.

Cannes delights: Some film critics have complained that the standard of entries in this year's Cannes Film Festival was too high.

A "jeetle" fable: Antoine de Caunes, the cute half of the Eurotrash duo, talks to Mary Riddell about his new television show and why he is impossible to live with.

Happy families: Giles Coren, son of Alan and brother of Victoria, writes about nepotism.

Dangerous driving: As the police investigate an apparent case of road-rage murder, an AA survey sheds some light on why drivers give way to violence.

Quick fix: Joseph Connolly visits the celebrated Clinique La Prairie in Switzerland to find out why so many famous people swear by its rejuvenating injections.

A matter of respect: The President of the Law Society has asked J. Walter Thompson to mount an advertising campaign to improve lawyers' reputations.

Waiting for the call: The Bar Council wants to extend the time barristers wait to be called to the Bar.

President Clinton had the opportunity to fashion a strong policy against anti-personnel mines, and he lost it.

Reform for forensic testing: science in British Library; Liberal's vote on EEC; Mohamed Al Fayed and the Liberal Democrats; charitable bequests; witness support; hymns and anthems; Ten Tors trek.



IN THE TIMES

FASHION Millinery returns: why getting a hat again

INTERFACE Sega's £45 million indoor theme park in central London, plus 15 cordless phones worth £230 each to be won

LAW

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,173

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues. The grid is a standard 13x13 crossword format.

- ACROSS
1 Inventor inserting article in fine sharpener (10).
9 French hero involved in a crony's writing (6).
10 Poem finished then not written down (8).
11 Cooked meats, for instance, turned back by customs (8).
12 It's essential for shifting car exhaust sound (4).
13 Lane driver's travelling for cattleman (10).
15 No rubbish must be returned to city (7).
17 Spiritual elegy's ultimate style, following second thoughts (7).
20 Numb with melody thrashed out in heavy metal? Quite (10).
21 A team's powers working together (4).
23 What might help rash trio of leaders thrown out of office (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,172. A crossword puzzle solution grid with words filled in. Words include: MALTESE, PADDLER, GROUP, SNOWGOOSE, ARIORY, HONORARY, OCEAN, ANTIPODES, EMBROIDER, REBEL, CAUDRON, ONIONS, PUNY, G, N, I, A, L, P, I, C, N, I, C, K, E, R, I, N, D, I, A, S, E, N, E, U, A, E, D, ENRAGED, BOLONEY.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a showery day with some showers heavy and prolonged, perhaps with thunder. During the afternoon and evening it will become drier from the west with some evening sunshine, but thickening cloud will bring rain to the west.

Table with columns for region, sun, rain, and max/min temperatures. Includes regions like Greater London, Kent, Sussex, etc.

Table with columns for region, sun, rain, and max/min temperatures. Includes regions like London & SE England, E Anglia, etc.

Advertisement for Bentley & Co. featuring a watch and the text: 'Adding to our Stock. When you wish to sell jewellery, you can count on our professional, discreet and fair market prices. We pay at once, without charging commission. We're always happy to add to our stock... and our reputation.'

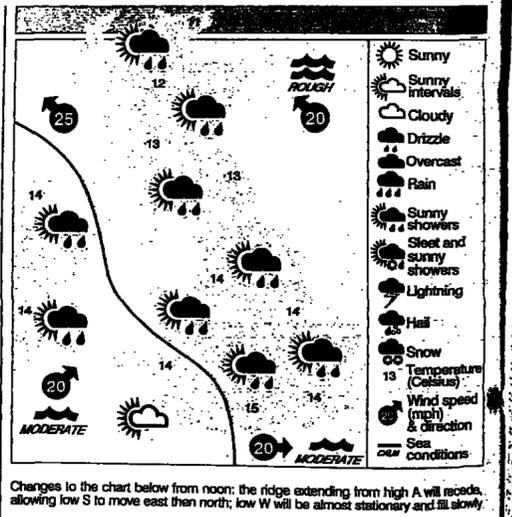


Table of high and low tide times for various locations including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Liverpool, etc.

Table of sunrise and sunset times for various locations including London, Bristol, Edinburgh, etc.

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